Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

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Kilili to seek hearings on federalization law. PAGE 2

Sick alien worker needs help to return home. PAGE 3

# Obama halts pending regs, which may impact visa-waiver rules

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

One of Barack Obama's first actions as President could have a large impact on the Commonwealth.

Within hours of his inauguration, Obama's chief of staff, Rahm Emanuel, issued a memo halting all pending federal regulations until further review.

Last week the interim final rules for the joint Guam-CNMI visa waiver program were published in the Federal Register, where citizens are allowed to comment for a period of 60 days.

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# Entry permits not valid after June 1

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Anyone outside the CNMI who has a CNMI Immigration status will lose that status when the federalization law takes effect on June 1, 2009, according to the local Immigration chief.

Grey

"In order for anyone to come into the CNMI on or after June 1, 2009, they will have to have a U.S. Immigration document to enter the

See ENTRY on Page 4

# Obama urges unity vs 'raging storms'

Barack Obama, left, takes the oath of office from Chief Justice John Roberts, not seen, as his wife Michelle, holds the Lincoln Bible and daughters Sasha, right and Malia, watch at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2009. AP

By JENNIFER LOVEN
AP WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Before a jubilant crowd of more than a million, Barack Hussein Obama claimed his place in history as America's first black president, summoning a dispirited nation to unite in hope against the "gathering clouds and raging storms" of war

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# Man killed after two cars hit him

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A pedestrian was killed when two vehicles struck him one after the other along Beach Road in front of the Marianas High School in Susupe Tuesday night.

The victim, Rodriquez Jonas Suka, 42, a Chuukese, was pronounced dead on arrival at the Commonwealth Health Center at 10:26pm.

Suka is the first fatality in a vehicular accident this year in the CNMI. He is the fifth fatality, however, in three vehicular

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**OPINION METER**

This week's poll:
On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest, rate your level of confidence in President Barack Obama's ability to revive the flagging U.S. economy.

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

**114 DAYS** without a government budget for FY 2009

INSIDE

**Victory Garden**
These days, planting lettuce or beets is a political act.

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**Style Icon**
First lady Michelle Obama celebrated her husband's inauguration Tuesday night wearing a white chiffon, one-shoulder gown.

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# Local

## Kilili to seek hearings on federalization law

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan said he intends to ask the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee to hold hearings on Public Law 110-229, commonly known as the federalization law.

Under P.L. 110-229, U.S. immigration laws will apply to the CNMI. Unless delayed, the law will go into effect June 1.

"We need to receive reports on the status of all issues pertaining to the federalized immigration system for the Northern Mariana Islands. It is important that Congress is kept fully informed on this issue," Sablan said in an e-mail.

Sablan was recently named to the House Natural Resources Committee, which oversees the insular areas. He will be joining Nick Rahall, chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, and Donna Christensen, the chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs. Both shepherded the legislation changing the CNMI's immigration system.

"Serving on the committee is the best way to continue to forge a much improved federal-Commonwealth relationship," the congressman said. "The committee, through chairwoman Donna Christensen's Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, has the primary jurisdiction in Congress to set federal policy for the territories and commonwealths, including the Northern Mariana Islands. It is very important that my office get involved in all these policies."

Federalization is law now, and the CNMI must work with the U.S. federal government to ensure that the system works for the Commonwealth in the long term, he said.

"We must move forward in this respect," Sablan added. "I will work with Chairman Rahall, Chairwoman Christensen and federal agencies to ensure that the law is carried out to benefit us all in the long term. There will obviously be some adjustments that everyone will have to make in the interim, but we must all move forward so that all parties fully benefit from this in the end."

Right now, he said, many people see federalization as a harm to the local economy, but, if properly implemented, it could be good for the CNMI.

"There will be more stability and certainty for employers and employees. We will, we hope, be less reliant on foreign workers—but will be given the freedom to hire foreign workers when we need them," he added.

## 'AG failed miserably'

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Attorney General has failed to properly defend the government in the Retirement Fund's lawsuit against the Commonwealth, according to Senate President Pete Reyes, who has authorized legal counsel Mike Ernest to look into the matter for the Legislature's benefit.

In November, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo found the CNMI government and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial liable in the lawsuit filed by the Retirement Fund over the government's failure to remit the required employer contributions, now reportedly reaching over $119.6 million. The judge granted the Fund's request for default judgment after the Attorney General's Office, as counsel for Fitial and the government, waited nearly two years to answer the complaint.

Govendo found no adequate reason for the delay and ordered the defendants' answer to the complaint be stricken from the record.

Reyes said the attorney general failed to do his duties as the AG.

"The attorney general miserably failed in his responsibility to defend the government, and in doing so, put into jeopardy the power of the Legislature to appropriate money. And I take that very seriously, and I think every member of this body should take this seriously and defend it with everything we have," Reyes said.

The government failed to file their response to the default judgment within the allotted time, Govendo wrote in his ruling granting a default judgment. Govendo said he was appalled by this inexcusable lapse on the part of the Commonwealth as the government was put on notice in August 2006 that an answer was going to have to be filed.

The judge said OAG Civil Division's Anthony Welch also stated both in court on Oct. 17, 2008, and in his motion to extend time to answer that he was too preoccupied with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and other responsibilities to address the Fund's complaint.

Legal counsel Ernest said the Constitution is clear that the Attorney General must represent the Commonwealth, but, with Reyes' authorization, he will go to the Retirement Fund to make more direct inquiries.

"The nuts and bolts of it is the Commonwealth Constitution requires the attorney general to defend us, and that didn't happen for whatever reason—if the attorney general thinks the case is indefensible, then that's one thing. And I would really not like to substitute my judgment for his. Its not my place to do that."

The Office of the Attorney General could have a reason for not acting, Ernest added.

Ernest said he sent an e-mail to Attorney General Greg Baka and Welch on Jan. 14, inquiring into the matter, but as of Tuesday had not heard anything back.

An earlier e-mail sent to Ernest which was later given to Reyes seems to show the AG's Office is not planning on asking for the judgment to be set aside, Reyes said.

"And to me, of course I'm not a lawyer, but doesn't that mean they're not going to appeal?" Reyes asked Ernest.

"That appears to be their present posture," Ernest said "But the statements are not official. It's just him chatting with me. It just happens to be in an e-mail. Their posture seems to be ride it out and see what happens in February, when the next hearing is."

The attorney general could be doing exactly what the governor wants him to do, Ernest said, adding that he wants to know if it was a trial tactic.

"If that's the case, we're in for a bumpy ride come time to pay the judgment," he said.

The legal counsel said there are some arguments that could be made that the government does not owe or does not owe as much.

"There are arguments we can make," Ernest said. "Will they ultimately prevail? I don't know. I do think it would be nice to be able to make some arguments and defend the Commonwealth."

Reyes said if Ernest does not get the necessary information he will sign a subpoena if necessary.

He also said he would use his influence not to get acting Attorney General Baka confirmed in the Senate.

## DPS sets insurance checkpoints

The Department of Public Safety Traffic Section will be conducting mandatory liability auto insurance (Public Law 11-55) checkpoints on Friday, Jan. 23, 2009.

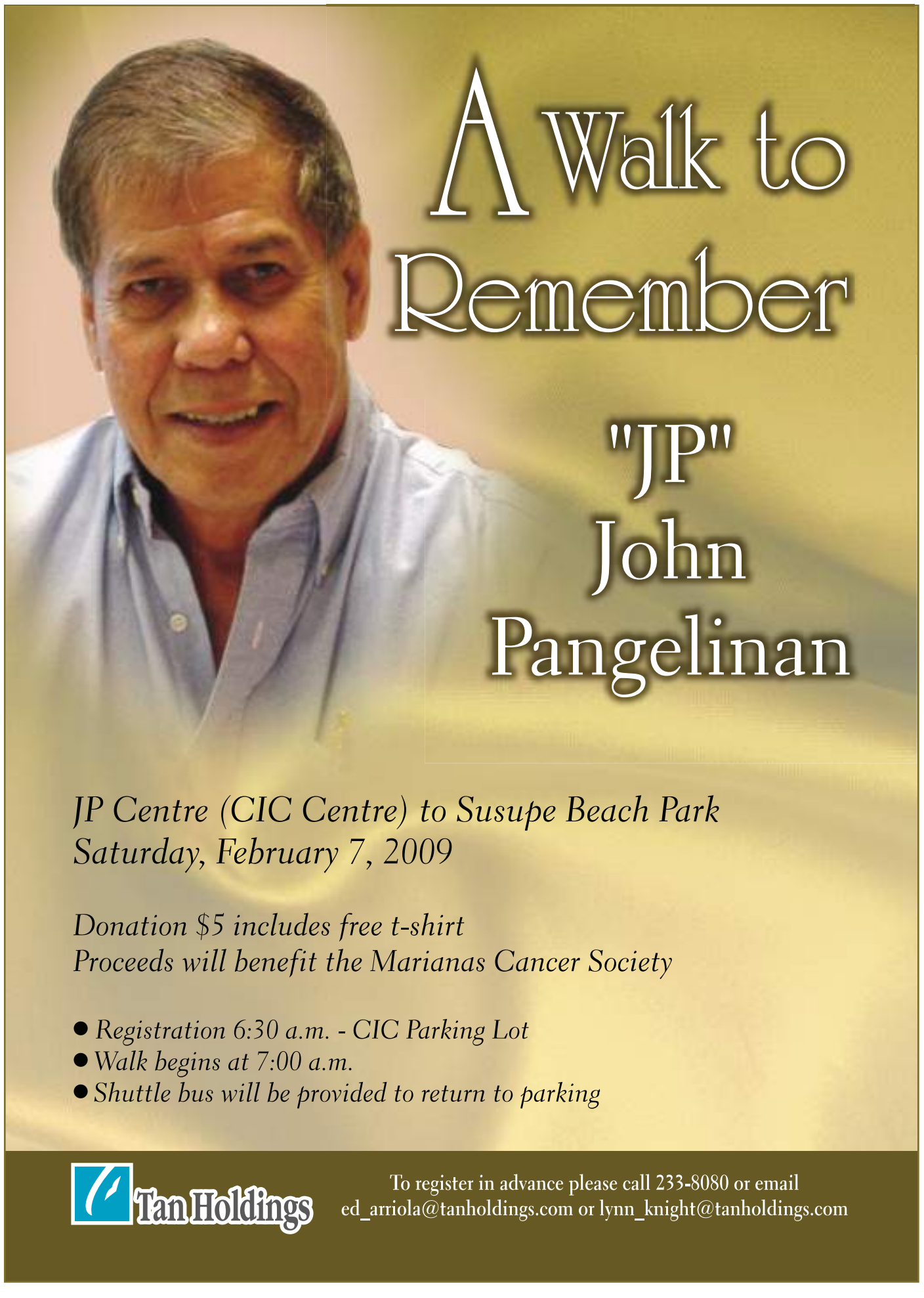
The first checkpoint will be on Beach Road Chalan Lau Lau. This operation will commence at 9am and will terminate at 10:15am.

The second checkpoint will be on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero's Road by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Waterloo Station. This operation will commence at 4pm and will terminate at 5:15pm.

Each checkpoint conducted will last at least 75 minutes at each location.

In addition, traffic officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser activities.

For more information, contact Sgt. Paul Ogumoro or Police Officer Glenn Rabago at 664-9084/5/6. ***(DPS)***


A Walk to Remember
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JP Centre (CIC Centre) to Susupe Beach Park
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Proceeds will benefit the Marianas Cancer Society
Registration 6:30 a.m. - CIC Parking Lot
Walk begins at 7:00 a.m.
Shuttle bus will be provided to return to parking
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# Sick alien worker needs help to return home

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
REPORTER

A worker diagnosed with a serious medical condition is seeking the community's help for her return to the Philippines along with her two young sons.

Geraldine P. Amor, 35, had been ill for weeks until she was admitted to the Commonwealth Health Center's intensive care unit Monday afternoon. She said she was diagnosed with lupus.

Lupus is an auto-immune disease that can affect various parts of the body, including the skin, joints, heart, lungs, blood, kidneys and brain.

"I want to go home," Amor told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at her hospital bed. "I hope they'll be able to help us with our air fare."

Her aunt, Remy Amor, said in a separate interview that her niece's mother and relatives want her to go home.

Geraldine Amor said she is now penniless after her work permit was not renewed when it expired on Dec. 10, 2008, because of her medical condition.

She is not only worried about her medical bills but also has to take care of her two boys—a 3-year-old and a 1-year-old.

Amor has been working on Saipan for five years mostly as an administrative staff member at a now defunct restaurant before taking a job at Motion Auto Shop.

Under CNMI labor law, the last employer of record should be the one to shoulder the repatriation ticket of an employee and pay for medical bills.

Just the same, Geraldine and Remy Amor are seeking help from members of the community and the Philippine government. Any money raised will be used to defray the costs that won't be shouldered by the last employer of record, as well as for the airfare of the two minors.

Filipino groups have started to raise funds for the family's ticket back home.

The Philippine Consulate General, through assistance to nationals officer Violaflor Ancheta, said they have yet to receive a specific request for help from Geraldine Amor or her relatives.

"But we told the family that if they need something, tell us about it and we will help if we can. But right now, there's no specific request," said Ancheta.

Remy Amor hopes her niece will soon regain her strength to be able to endure the long travel back home.

Saipan is only about three hours away from Manila through direct flights that are no longer available. Geraldine Amor and her two minor sons will have to take connecting flights that will take them from Saipan to Japan and then to Manila for a total travel and wait time of up to 12 or more hours.

Those who would like to help Geraldine Amor and her sons are asked to call or send a text message to Remy Amor at (670) 484 5811.

# Arts Council reports improved sales during Christmas exhibit

Despite the difficult times, there is hope for artists in the CNMI if the results of the annual Christmas Arts Exhibit are to be judged.

This is the assessment of NMI Council for Arts and Culture Coordinator Parker Yobei as he reported on the total sales from the month-long sales and exhibit.

The total sale was $1,250, which was better that last year's $800.

Yobei said there were also more artists who participated in the exhibit compared to the previous year. The total participation was 47 in December 2008 while there were only 22 in 2007.

All the sales went to the artists.

Yobei said the Arts Council only provide the venue and help the artists prepare for the activity.

He said the art crafts such as earrings, Christmas ornaments and decorations made up of pandanas leaves were selling well.

The coconut carvings from Frank Cabrera were also hit among buyers, mostly tourists.

"I think the economic crisis did not affect our sales. People wants to buy gifts during the holidays," Yobei said.

The next art exhibit will be in June but artists will also be participating in the Flame Tree Arts Festival in April.

CCAC said the membership for the festival organizing committee is still being organized. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

# 'CPA consultant recommended seaport fee hike, not BST'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
REPORTER

The newly approved rate hike on seaport fees and charges was based on the recommendation of a financial consultant commissioned by CPA and not by the BST Associates, which earlier completed the seaport rate study for the agency.

This was clarified by a CPA board resolution, which states that, although CPA acknowledges the work of BST in its Rate Revenue Covenant Update, the ports authority had to seek the expertise of a financial consultant, who later recommended the 90 percent rate increase on all seaport fees and charges.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that CPA has hired and retained Bruce McMillan of International Management Ltd. as its financial consultant in the absence of a permanent comptroller for the agency.

BST's study had proposed a 20-percent increase in seaport tariff rates for wharfage, dockage, entry fees, homeport fees, and franchise fees over the current rates for fiscal year 2009.

The same rate study recommended a 12-percent hike by fiscal years 2010, 2011, and 2012.

For FY 2013, BST suggested a 7-percent increase on top of the already proposed 5-percent increase.

These recommendations were never adopted by the agency.

CPA is currently charging a wharfage fee of $6 per revenue ton.

The amount will reach $10.20 per revenue ton once the board-approved 90 percent is implemented.

CPA, however, promised to evaluate and assess the impact of the new rates after three months.

Stakeholders have asked the board to defer the enforcement of the new seaport rates three weeks after its approval on Jan. 14.

CPA described BST's study as "generally based on historical data."

"It deems its contents to be optimistic because it did not provide the best analysis of the most recent data to achieve the requirements and provisions of the Seaport Revenue Bond Indenture Agreement," stated the CPA resolution.

It said McMillan, who was retained in December, reviewed the most recent seaport data and recommended that the fees be increased by 90 percent in order to meet the requirements of the bond indenture.

CPA has reported that seaport revenues dropped by over 60 percent in FY 2008 primarily due to the shutting down of the garment industry on island.

Both CPA management and its board believe the proposed tariff rate and fee increases will contribute to and aid in arresting the continued deterioration of CPA.

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* You have the right to dispute this notice. You must state your claim in person or in writing no later than January 22nd. You must pay any amount not in dispute to avoid disconnection. Payment denotes acceptance of all charges.
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Kung Hei Fat Choi
恭喜發財
Celebrate the Chinese New Year "Year of the OX" at Palms Resort Saipan Fresko Restaurant
Chinese New Year 2009 Sunday Brunch
Date: Sunday, January 25, 2009
Time: 11:00 am - 2:00 pm
$ 28.00 Adult / $ 15.00 Child
Free use of swimming pool, Beverage includes Sparkling wine, Miller Draft, and Pepsi products.
Chinese New Year 2009 Lunch Buffet
Date: Monday, January 26, 2009
Time: 11:00 am - 2:00 pm
$ 24.00 Adult / $ 15.00 Child
2Activities: LION DANCE
Free use of swimming pool, Beverage includes Miller Draft and Pepsi products.
Chinese New Year 2009 Dinner Buffet
Date: Monday, January 26 to Monday, February 2, 2009
Time: 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
$ 30.00 Adult / $ 15.00 Child
Beverage includes Miller Draft and Pepsi products.
*20% local discount applicable.
Palms Resort Saipan

## PENDING

*From Page 1*

Officials from two federal agencies are now trying to determine what effect, if any, the freeze would have on the visa waiver program and other regulations relating to Public Law 110-229.

Alex Hartman, an immigration policy adviser at the Department of Homeland Security, said he does not think the freeze would pertain to the visa waiver program but would need to get more information. Hartman was on island last week to explain the visa waiver program.

According to *The Washington Post*, which obtained a copy of the memo, the freeze seems to impact those regulations that have not been published.

"…no proposed or final regulation should be sent to the Office of Federal Register for publication unless and until it has been reviewed and approved by a department or agency head appointed or designated by the President after noon on January 20, 2009, or in the case of the Department of Defense, the Secretary of Defense," the memo states.

But a temporary delay could take place. The Obama administration is asking all department and agency heads to "consider extending for 60 days the effective date of regulations that have been published in the Federal Register but not yet taken effect" unless they impact health, safety, environmental, financial, or national security matters, according to *The Washington Post*. New department heads could alter what is believed to be a threat to health, safety, environmental, financial, or national security matters.

Former President George W. Bush's administration moved into overdrive in the last year or so on a host of new regulatory proposals. Now the Obama administration will review everything that is still pending.

And that could include the proposed visa-waiver regulations for the CNMI and Guam. DHS had left out China and Russia from the visa waiver program citing security concerns. Once additional security measures are enacted, the two countries could be eligible to participate in the program.

Government officials, business and tourism leaders, and community members have expressed concern about the impact the loss of the Russian and Chinese tourism markets would have on the CNMI's already-fragile economy.

At a public meeting last week, Hartman said the door was not totally closed on the two markets, and with a new president coming into office things could change.

Charles Reyes, press secretary for the Governor's Office, said the Fitial administration is eager to see how Obama's new policies could impact the Commonwealth.

"We're very interested to see whether or not that affects our situation," he said. "Many of us are very concerned with the impending applications of laws. Actually we're very curious to see how the new Obama administration will handle that."

The new immigration laws will go into effect June 1. Federal officials have stated a delay of up to 180 days is possible but that they are working on the assumption the law will go into effect as scheduled on June 1. Any sort of delay would be helpful if the security measures can be worked on simultaneously, Reyes said.

# Island's African-American community rejoices

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
REPORTER

While most in the CNMI were asleep around 3am Wednesday, visiting civil rights activist MarshaRose Joyner was holding back tears as she joined millions all over the world watch live on television the swearing in of Barack Obama as the first African-American president of the United States.

"I was overwhelmed…It doesn't matter that we're not in [Washington] D.C.," Joyner said, who came to Saipan as keynote speaker for Martin Luther King Jr. Day activities on the eve of Obama's inauguration.

Joyner joined members of the CNMI African-American Cultural Preservation Committee led by attorney Joe Hill in the wee hours of Wednesday at Bud's Bar in Garapan for the live telecast of Obama's swearing in and inauguration speech.

"I was moved when he said about 60 years ago, his father could not eat in a restaurant and now his son has been sworn in as president of the United States," she said.

Joyner, who first came to Saipan as an 8-year-old girl during the closing years of World War II from 1946 to 1949, said she's sorry that she couldn't be with her children and grandchildren to witness the historic inauguration.

"But everybody on Saipan has been wonderful to me. It's like a new family. It's really been good to be here," she added.

Leslie Jackson of the CNMI African-American Cultural Preservation Committee was also overwhelmed with the swearing in of the first African-American president of the United States.

"Now is the time to let freedom ring and it can be done around the world," said Jackson, who opened his own bar beyond 2am so that people could watch Obama's inauguration live on TV.

"This is a part of fulfilling the MLK dream. It's not the whole fulfillment… We pray for Barack and his family to lead this country in a responsible way," he added.

For attorney Joe Hill, president of the African-American Cultural Preservation Committee, he said: "It's a great day for America. It's a great day for the world,"

Hill said Obama's ascendancy as the 44th president of the United States of America is significant not only to America but to the world because it sets a new stage—about a new generation of leaders and ways of thinking and looking at the world.

"You now see the world through color of not black and white but a color of unity and a world where persons are chosen to be leaders based not on the color of the skin," Hill said.

Attorney Jeanne Rayphand said it is her hope that Obama will bring the troops home from Iraq and then make every effort to bring the U.S. back to the very ideals that make the country great.

"[Obama should] regain for the United States the respect and trust of not only our own American citizens but of citizens around the world, and to lead our world toward peace," Rayphand said.

Others like Fe A. Cepeda and her husband Frank Cepeda watched the inauguration live on TV in their own home.

"Frank is into politics and I also watched it. I'm for Obama because he's for change," she said. "I think it's getting to a point when we're going to have a lot of changes hopefully for the best."

Other residents were not able to watch the swearing in ceremony at around 3am Saipan time, but they were able to watch the reruns and the parade at a later time. ***(With Ferdie de la Torre)***

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Leslie Jackson, right, of the African-American Cultural Preservation Committee hugs visiting civil rights activist MarshaRose Joyner shortly after watching on television the inauguration of Barack Obama as the 44th president of the United States at 3am yesterday, Saipan time (12 noon in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 20). A small group gathered at Bud's Bar in Garapan to watch the inauguration live on TV.

## ERRATUM

Dickerson & Quinn/D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd. resident manager Max Kretzers clarified that the company does not carry Austin Quality Foods Toasty Crackers and is only responsible for Kellogg's and Kashi branded products as stated in the article "D&Q: Kellogg peanut butter products not part of recall" that was published yesterday in the *Saipan Tribune*. Our apologies.

## OBAMA

*From Page 1*

and economic woe.

On an extraordinary day in the life of America, people of all colors and ages waited for hours Tuesday in frigid temperatures to witness a young black man with a foreign-sounding name take command of a nation founded by slaveholders. It was a scene watched in fascination by many millions—perhaps billions—around the world.

"We gather because we have chosen hope over fear, unity of purpose over conflict and discord," the nation's 44th president said.

The presidency passed to Democrat Obama from Republican George W. Bush at the stroke of noon, marking one of democracy's greatest gifts: the peaceful transfer of power.

The new president had been buoyant and relaxed through the three days of preinaugural festivities. But he seemed somber as he stood on the Capitol steps, placed his left hand on the Bible used by Abraham Lincoln and repeated the inaugural oath "to preserve, protect and defend" a Constitution that originally defined blacks as three-fifths of a person. A deafening cheer went up.

"What is required of us now is a new era of responsibility—a recognition, on the part of every American, that we have duties to ourselves, our nation, and the world, duties that we do not grudgingly accept but rather seize gladly," Obama said. "This is the price and the promise of citizenship."

On the inaugural parade route, Obama and his wife, Michelle, climbed out of the heavily armored presidential limousine and walked a few blocks along famed Pennsylvania Avenue, waving to adoring crowds under the watchful eyes of security agents.

Hours later, they put the day's formality behind them to swirl through 10 inaugural balls.

## MAN

*From Page 1*

accidents that all occurred along Beach Road, Susupe in the past three months.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said yesterday that no one was cited in Tuesday night's accident as the two male drivers—Chang Eon Ahn, 47, and Yiming Xiong, 34, were not under the influence of alcohol and were not speeding.

Ogumoro said police are still looking into whether Suka was drunk.

"The weather was clear and the road surface, including the shoulder, was dry," Ogumoro said.

She said that on Tuesday at 10:15pm, DPS received a report of an auto-pedestrian crash along Beach Road next to the Marianas High School.

Based on preliminary investigation, a white 2006 Lexus 5 wagon being driven by Ahn was on the inner northbound lane along Beach Road when it collided with Suka.

After hitting Suka, Ahn's vehicle immediately stopped on the outer northbound lane. Several seconds later, a blue 2003 Toyota Echo being driven by Xiong and traveling north on the inner northbound lane also collided with the victim, who was lying within the vehicle's lane. Xiong's car came to a rest north of Suka.

Medics immediately transported the victim to CHC, where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

Ogumoro said the Lexus car had moderate damage underneath the left front portion, while the Toyota Echo had minor damage underneath the left front portion.

"Further investigation of this case is currently being conducted. More information will be provided as soon as new information becomes available," Ogumoro said.

## ENTRY

*From Page 1*

CNMI," according to CNMI Immigration Director Melvin Grey in a public notice issued Tuesday. The notice was posted at Immigration offices.

The Immigration official said that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has informed the CNMI that local Immigration documents—entry permits—will not be valid for boarding any aircraft or sea vessel to return to the Commonwealth on or after June 1, 2009.

This means that an alien worker who leaves the CNMI and fails to return before the June 1 cutoff will not be allowed to enter the islands unless he or she has a valid U.S. Immigration document, such as a U.S. visa.

Grey said there will be no exceptions to the federal policy.

Documents that will be rendered invalid after June 1 include entry permits, visitor entry permits, electronic visitor entry permits, authorization for entry for employment, re-entry letters, authorization to board, and CNMI permanent resident cards.

"Anyone having a U.S. visitor B1/B2 visa or any other U.S. visa may enter the CNMI but they may not enter the CNMI and then resume their CNMI status," the director said.

Press secretary Charles Reyes told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that, based on the administration's understanding from Homeland Security, there may be a risk for contract workers who are legally employed in the CNMI if they go home for a vacation after federalization takes effect on June 1.

"We are concerned that there may be a risk, that the workers may not be able to come back under our laws. They may have to conform to the U.S. immigration laws. So that's something that we need to get a clarification from Homeland Security," Reyes said.

He said all alien workers should be concerned about this because there are a lot of uncertainties.

"Still the regulations [on federalization] are not finalized yet. We are trying to get more information but we understand that these are some of the risks," Reyes said.

He said if alien workers leave the CNMI after June 1, they may have to come back under the U.S. Immigration policy, not the CNMI Immigration policy.

"That means a different standard, then they have to make sure that they have to follow those standards, which may be more difficult than the current situation," Reyes said.

He said Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has always been concerned about federalization.

"It is interesting because I think that now more and more people are starting to wake up and realize that what the governor has been saying all along about federalization seems to be increasingly true," Reyes said.

He said Fitial had been warning even before the federalization law was passed that this is going to be very detrimental to the CNMI's society and economy.

"Some people didn't believe, including members of the Legislature, just how bad the situation could be," Reyes added.

# BEH: No peanut butter in stores pulled out so far

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
monethdeposa@yahoo.com
REPORTER

The Bureau of Environmental Health reported yesterday that stores on Saipan and Rota don't carry any of the brands included in the Food and Drug Administration's list of 18 suspected peanut-butter brands that caused the salmonella outbreak in the U.S.

This comes as the FDA warned consumers to avoid cookies, cakes and other foods containing peanut butter pending the results of the investigation. Peanut butter sold in jars to consumers is not included.

According to BEH director John Tagabuel, the agency's inspectors on Saipan and Rota have called, verified, and conducted random inspections of peanut butter suppliers on the two islands.

"To date, the CNMI doesn't have or imported the identified peanut brands," Tagabuel said, adding that Saipan has inspected 37 establishments to date while Rota has reported zero inventory of the mentioned products in the three retail establishments inspected.

BEH, meanwhile, is still awaiting response from Tinian BEH offices.

Tagabuel noted that the peanut recall investigation continues and the agency will monitor notifications from FDA.

*Saipan Tribune* also learned that the BEH inspected 14 major wholesalers and 23 retail stores on Saipan, while three were checked on Rota.

"BEH office and inspectors during their course of inspection continues to advise food partners and wholesale/retail vendors to remove all the USA imported peanut and by-product from their inventories," Tagabuel said.

The following are the products, manufacturers, and state originating from ordered to be pulled out immediately from the markets:

- King Nut Peanut Better, Minnesota;
- Perry Ice Cream, Buffalo, NY;
- Sandwich Crackers & Peanut Butter Cheese, Tenn.;
- Ice Cream, Cinn. Ohio;
- Peanut Butter Candies Bar, Abbott, Ohio;
- Erozen Bakery Cookies, Downers, Ill.;
- South Bend Chocolate Fudge, South Bend, Ind.; and
- Crackers, Kellogg, Battle Creek, Minnesota.

The peanut butter recall started last week in the CNMI after BEH received FDA voluntary recall notification by the State of Minnesota of suspected salmonella outbreak attributed to King Nut Peanut Butter brand.

As of Tuesday, the recall has widened and expended to 50 states and territories.

Tagabuel also reminded the public about the symptoms of salmonella that includes fever, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, and abdominal pain.

In related news, Joeten Enterprises confirmed that they did receive a notice from the Department of Health listing the brands of peanut butter which were recalled and fortunately, Joeten was not affected by the peanut butter recall."

## UMDA official asks court to dismiss 'baseless claim'

Jose Lifoifoi, chairman of the United Micronesia Development Association, through his attorneys David Lujan and Edward Arriola, filed a motion in the CNMI Superior Court yesterday to dismiss claims filed against him and other UMDA directors by companies affiliated with Robert Pfaff and John Larson.

Robert Pfaff and John Larson are convicted felons who UMDA brought suit against in 2007. Pfaff is facing another criminal trial in New York later this year under a second indictment for misusing UMDA accounts and assets for personal gain.

Lifoifoi, former Speaker of the House of Representatives, stated, "I'm outraged by the obvious tactics of these convicted criminals to smear me and my fellow directors. The claims against me and the other UMDA directors are totally false. They accuse us of the embezzling money that we deposited with the court to decide who is entitled to it. They know where the money is and that it is even earning interest pending the Court's decision!"

Lifoifoi explained, "After UMDA filed this suit, the defendants launched what they called an 'assault on Saipan' to secretly remove $5 millions from accounts here in Saipan. We stopped them, got an injunction, and placed the money in court-controlled accounts. Now defendants have the nerve to sue us and say that we stole it because we kept them from taking the money and fleeing Saipan. If we allowed them to do that I doubt that we would ever see them or the money again. The money is now safe and secure in a court-controlled account. I know that the court and the people of the Commonwealth will see the attacks by the defendants for what they are—harassment and defamation of me and my fellow directors."

Lifoifoi continued, " I have spent my entire life serving the people of the Commonwealth. There is nothing more important to me than my reputation in my home. These people know that, and even though they are trying to scare me by threatening to ruin my reputation, I will not be intimidated from doing the right thing for the benefit of the shareholders of UMDA. It is my duty and responsibility."

UMDA, founded in 1966 in Saipan, has been involved in a wide range of businesses, including airlines, cable systems, shipping, and resort properties. UMDA's shareholders include the government or governmental entities of the CNMI, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and thousands of individual Micronesians and their families. ***(UMDA)***

## One arrested for ice, another nabbed for domestic violence

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Police arrested a man for alleged possession of methamphetamine or "ice" and another for beating up his girlfriend.

Benefacio Magofna Camacho, 33, was detained for possession of controlled substance, while Milton Borja Camacho, 28, was picked up for assault and battery.

Both suspects are already on probation by the courts for previous cases.

During a hearing yesterday, Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman imposed a $5,000 cash bail each for the temporary release of the two Camachos.

Wiseman set the preliminary hearing for Jan. 28 and arraignment for Feb. 2 in both cases.

Detective Andrea C. Ozawa stated in her report that on Monday night police officers responded to call about a domestic violence incident at the AM&L Apartment in Chalan Kanoa.

Ozawa said that when officers arrived at the apartment, they saw a man and a woman running away from them. An officer stopped the two and asked if there was a problem. The two replied no.

The officer then noticed something protruding from the pocket of the man. The man, later identified as Benefacio Camacho, consented to a search. The officer allegedly found a zip-lock type plastic bag containing "ice." The suspect was then arrested.

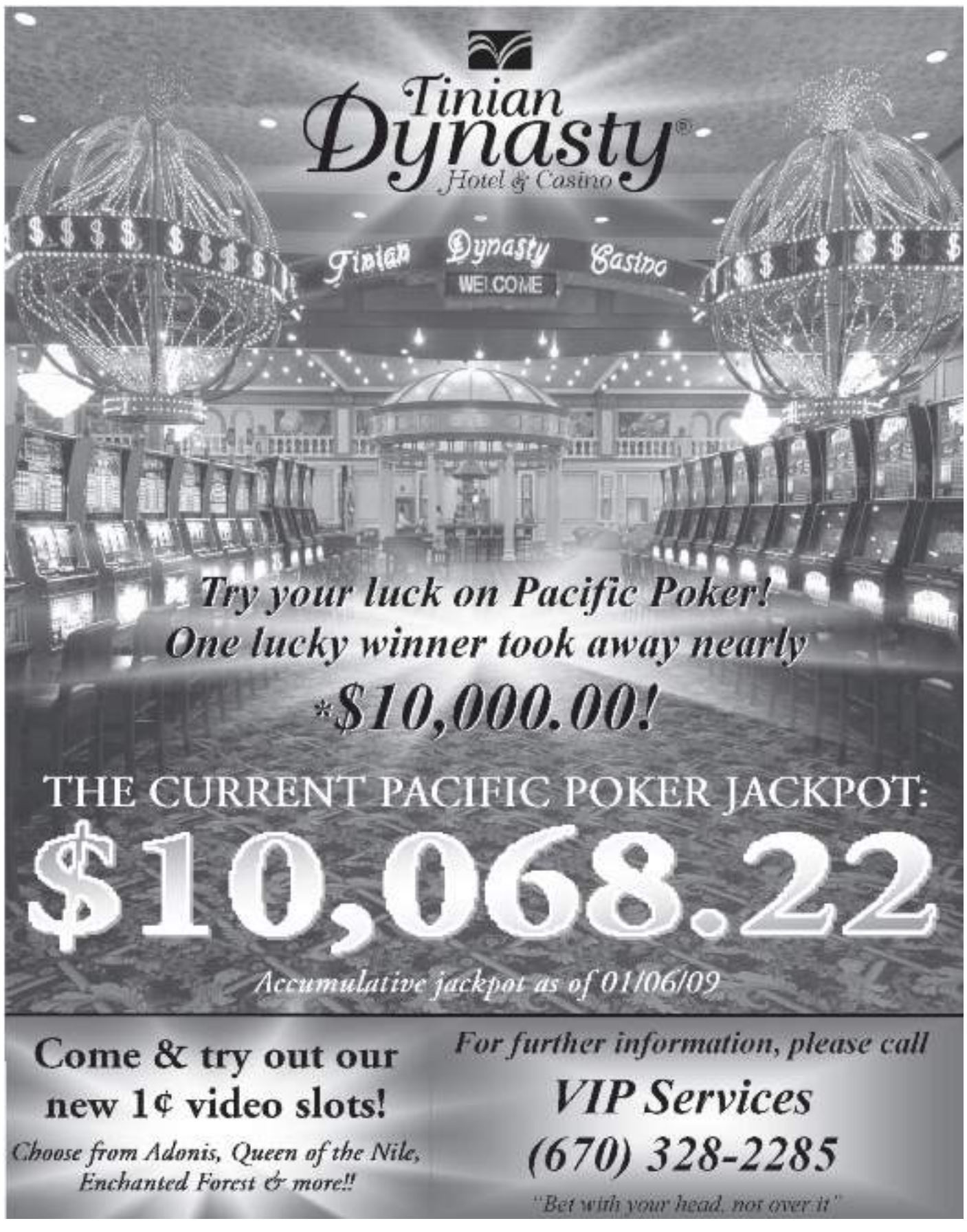
Ozawa said the woman told the officers that she had just witnessed Milton Camacho beating up his girlfriend.

The woman claimed that Milton Camacho and the girlfriend were arguing. She said Milton Camacho choked, slapped, and punched the victim. Milton Camacho allegedly dragged the girlfriend to their apartment room when he heard the siren of a police car.

Police officers checked the apartment room, where they arrested Milton Camacho.

The victim was found crying on the restroom floor. She had numerous bruises and scratches on the right eye, neck, right elbow, legs, left face, left wrist, and a large bruise on the left side of the wrist.

Officers later saw outside the apartment a bag that contained illegal drug paraphernalia and residue of "ice."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# Taisakan questions bill creating a DPL board

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Islands Mayor Valentin I. Taisakan is urging the Legislature to conduct more public forums on the proposed measure reinstating the board of directors to oversee the Department of Public Lands.

While he agrees with the need to re-address land management policy and the function of DPL, Taisakan said the participation of the public in an open forum tends to produce a more permanent and stable land management policy for the benefit of all in the Commonwealth.

Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider recently introduced Senate Bill 16-42 to reinstate the board of directors that used to govern DPL's predecessor, the Marianas Public Lands Authority.

Hofschneider said the bill would add greater control to an agency that has too much autonomy.

Hofschneider said Public Law 15-2, which created DPL, replaced the board with a single secretary. He said this arrangement has resulted in numerous complaints because DPL is "unresponsive" to the desires of persons of Northern Marianas decent "who own the public lands being administered by the DPL."

Hofschneider said it had been three years since the law was enacted but the "homestead program has seen little, if any movement."

DPL Secretary John S. Del Rosario was still preparing his reactions and views on the proposed bill when sought for comments.

In a letter to Rep. Ramon Tebuteb, chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, Taisakan wrote that if the Legislature is dissatisfied with how DPL is managing the homestead program, they must inquire with the department about this.

"But if the Legislature strongly believes that the way to address and expedite the issuance of homestead lots to qualified applicants in the Commonwealth is by way of approving SB 16-42, then it must be clearly expressed in this bill as to how it will be done," Taisakan told Tebuteb.

Taisakan said there is nothing in the proposed measure that provide ways to improve, develop and mandate the issuance of homestead to qualified applicants in the CNMI.

He said the reinstatement of the board is not a guarantee that the homestead program will be better developed and expedited because the bill may defeat its intended purpose.

Taiskan questioned a provision in the bill that states "no interest in public land shall be transferred except upon approval by the board of the particular interest and any attempted transfer of such an interest without prior board approval shall be void and of no effect."

He said this contradicts how interest in public land shall be transferred, adding that it is an unjust policy to seek the board's prior approval.

"This type of provision does not serve the Commonwealth's best public interest and should not be authorized," he said.

Another questionable amendment, he said, is a provision authorizing compensation to board members while attending official board meetings, including travel costs and per diem.

"We should learn from past experience that such openhanded provision or policy has been overly abused, which has cost the CNMI hundreds of thousands of dollars or more," Taisakan noted.

He also questioned the lack of explanation on the functions of the deputy administrators, by the mayors of the respective senatorial district.

Such responsibilities will fall directly under the political supervision and management of the mayors, he said.

He also said that since the funding for the deputy administrator's position for the first and second district will be source from DPL's operations bank account, such withdrawal should be authorized only for such purpose.

But since this concern is not addressed in the proposed measure, such funds, he said, may be subject to abuse.

He said the CNMI could not afford to allow a separate land management policy to be established and managed by individual senatorial districts.

**CATALOG ART** CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas College President Dr. Carmen Fernandez, right, presents the new NMC 2008-2009 Catalog that bears the artwork of NMC sophomore, Robert Guerrero. Guerrero's artwork won the NMC Catalog Cover Design Contest portraying the theme "Putting Pieces Together for a Better Future." Guerrero, who received a $100 Gift Certificate from the NMC Bookstore, is pursuing a degree in Liberal Arts.

Northern Mariana Islands
RETIREMENT FUND

NOTICE

NMI RETIREMENT FUND
INVESTMENTS PRESENTATION

The NMI Retirement Fund's Consultant, Merrill Lynch, will be conducting a presentation of the NMI Retirement Fund's Annual Investments Report on **Monday, January 26, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe.**

In addition to providing information on the Fund's investments status, questions from participants at the presentation would be addressed accordingly by the Fund Consultants and the Board of Trustees.

We encourage the participation of key government officials and all interested members of the public, *most especially the retired and active members of the NMI Retirement Fund Program,* at this event in order to gain greater knowledge of the investments status of the Fund.

/s/ Mark A. Aguon, Administrator 01/22/09

# 11 of 13 adopted Youth Congress resolutions benefit public schools

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Eleven of the 13 resolutions adopted during the second regular session of the 11th CNMI Youth Congress were related to education and for the benefit of various schools.

The resolutions include requesting funds for environmental awareness projects in schools, public health and safety for the benefit of the students, recreational and sports facilities, and other issues.

Youth Sen. Jessel M. Mesa introduced Resolution 11-2, requesting the 16th CNMI Legislature and the Department of Public Health to appropriate funds for health clinics at high school campuses in Kagman, Rota, Saipan Southern and Tinian.

Mesa stressed the importance of accessibility to proper health care for a safe and healthy population and that school clinics could provide services such as first aid, immunization, and counseling on various preventive medicine and similar issues.

Mesa said high school students are exposed to pressures that make them vulnerable to drug use and sexual activities, adding that school clinics may provide sex education and the ill effects of the use of illegal drugs.

Youth Congress Speaker Adeleyah Mojica introduced Resolution 11-3 to request the mayors of each municipality in the CNMI to provide recycle bins within villages and public schools and promote such environmental projects.

Mojica said recycling is a vital tool to protect the environment and the future of the islands and urged increased awareness among students on this issue.

She said recycling promotes a healthy lifestyle and would ensure that visitors will return.

Youth Sen. Johora Paeda wants the Legislature to set aside funding for the purchase of sports equipment for Rota High, Rota Junior High, and Sinapalo Elementary School.

In explaining Resolution 11-6, Paeda said physical activities for the youth would help promote healthy bodies and habits that are essential for growing bodies and minds.

She said proper sports equipment for all the three public schools on Rota are either nonexistent or in dire need of replacement.

She said teachers often use their personal sport gears due to this lack of equipment in schools.

Youth Congress Floor Leader John Ayuyu wants funds for a gymnasium at the Rota High.

Ayuyu said the present gymnasium has not been properly maintained and has suffered major damage by typhoons and could not be used due to safety concerns.

Youth Sen. Sunny Frank L. Aldan wants the Legislature to make available funding for more student participation in the Close Up program.

Aldan explains that this program inspires young people to participate in the democratic process through hands-on programs for students and teachers in Washington D.C.

He said participants have the chance to explore the nation's capital and meet elected officials, policy experts and media and discuss their views.

Aldan also introduced Resolution 11-9 to request the Legislature to convene sessions during the 2009 Youth Summit.

He also wants the Legislature to amend the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance Act to include high school honor students taking college courses.

Three other resolutions congratulate 2009 Teacher of the Year James Phillips of MHS, Teacher Aide of the Year, Rosa M. Sablan of Kagman, and Support staff of the Year, Patricia Aguon-Cruz of MHS.

Another adopted resolution commends the outstanding accomplishments of the Associated Students of NMC, which was introduced by Youth Sens. Min Seon Park, Aesha D. Sablan and Charlyn S. Techur.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### March Against Cancer set May 22-23

The Marianas March Against Cancer Committee have had their first meeting and is announcing that this year's "March Against Cancer" event will be held on May 22-23, 2009. With only a few months away, the first "Team Captain's Meeting" is set for Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2009 at 5:30pm. This meeting will take place at the Department of Public Health Deputy Secretary's Conference room (across from the gift shop at CHC). For more information regarding this event, email Catherine Attao (attao20@yahoo.com), Chris Concepcion (chrisaconcepcion@gmail.com) or visit www.ccamarianas.org. You may also call 682-0050. The committee is encouraging all who are interested in participating to attend next week's meeting. ***(PR)***

### SVES 3rd Annual Canary Walkathon

The Parent, Teacher, Students Association (PTSA) of San Vicente Elementary School will be hosting the 3rd Annual Canary Walk-a-thon this Saturday, Jan. 24, at the SVES baseball field, from 7am until noon.

Proceeds from the event will go toward the expansion of the walkways from the main highway and the covering of stairway going to the school cafeteria.

Members of the PTSA have been soliciting support for the event and welcome all donations both monetary and in-kind. For more information, call the school at (670) 237-3791/3 or 237-3761. ***(PR)***

### New CPA telephone numbers

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has changed its phones to a new system, which resulted in having to change its telephone numbers for the CPA offices at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. The new system is part of efforts to streamline operations and at the same time enhance efficiency. The new number sare:

Main Telephone numbers:

- (670) 237-6500
- (670) 237-6501

Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) DISPATCH: (670) 237-6551

Ports Police DISPATCH: (670) 237-6529

All other CPA numbers remain the same:

- Port of Saipan: (670) 664-3550
- CPA Tinian: (670) 433-9294
- CPA Rota: (670) 532-9497

### New Zoning Office telephone numbers

The Zoning Office phone numbers have changed. Direct all phone calls to 670-234-9661. ***(PR)***

### Veterans' briefing

On Jan. 28, 2009, Gregory Reed, director of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Honolulu Hawaii, and David Larson, veteran service representative for Guam and the CNMI, will be on Saipan to give a briefing and survey of veterans' benefit needs. They will also be entertaining questions. The input of CNMI veterans is crucial for the establishment of a local Federal Veterans Benefit Office.

The briefing will be held Jan. 28, 2009, 9am-12 noon, at the Office of Military/ Veterans Affairs on Capital Hill, Building 1364. Any questions or further information, call Ruth Coleman at the Office of Military/ Veterans Affairs at 664-2650. ***(PR)***

### Guam Vet Center to hold session on Saipan

The Guam Vet Center will be hosting an information and counseling session for all combat veterans and their dependents on Jan. 28 and 29, at the Office of Military and Veterans Affair on Capital Hill, Building 1364. Catherine Illarmo, the Department of Veterans Affairs' Team Leaders/LCSW from the Guam Vet Center, will be available on Jan. 28, 2009, from 9am to 4pm and on Jan. 29, 2009, from 9am to 12 noon.

There will also be a limited number of individual counseling appointments available. For those interested in counseling, call Illarmo at 1-671-472-7160/1 or Office of Military and Veteran Affairs executive officer Ruth Coleman at 664-2650. Any questions or for further information, call Coleman at 664-2650. ***(PR)***

### Nepalese passport found

A community resident has found a Nepalese passport. Anyone who lost a Nepalese passport may contact 287-4536. ***(PR)***

### Aetna members welcome in the Philippines

The Northern Mariana Island Retirement Fund's health insurance, as provided by Aetna Global Benefits (Aetna), is now being accepted in the following hospitals in the Philippines:

- Asian Hospital & Medical Center
- Makati Medical Center
- Cebu Doctors' University Hospital

In addition, although St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City is not officially contracted with Aetna, they have on occasion allowed for one-time direct settlements, the Fund said.

All government employees and retirees receiving a pension from the Fund covered by Aetna are advised to make the necessary arrangements with these hospitals prior to traveling for medical treatment. For more information, contact Aetna at 1-800-231-7729.

### Attention to families of Echo Company soldiers

The 9th MSC Family Programs Office is inviting dependents of deployed soldiers of Echo Company 100th BN 442nd and 368th MP Det. 1 for a *free* one-day Family Deployment Workshop and Youth Mini Camp on Saturday, Jan. 31, 2009, at the Pacific Islands Club from 9am to 5pm. You must register no later than Thursday, Jan. 29, 2009. For more information or to register, contact Marcela Moody, Family Program Assistance at (671) 344-5012, Saipan RDO Maj. Gregorio Sablan at 322-6671 or FRG leader Rita L. Chargualaf at 322-7814. ***(PR)***

### Tobacco vendors' workshop set

There will be a Tobacco Merchant Education Workshop for all Class-2 Retail Dealer license holders on Thursday, Jan. 22, 2009, from 8:30am to 11:30am at the Pacific Islands Club, Napu Room. The workshop is limited to only 80 participants. To confirm one's participation or for more information, call David R. Maratita at the Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control Division at 664-3065, or Ed Camacho at the Community Guidance Center 323-6586. ***(PR)***

### Attention to families with disabilities on Rota

The Family Hope Center under the CNMI Council for Developmental Disabilities and Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. would like to inform the community that the System Navigators would be traveling to Rota to conduct interviews and follow up(s) with families with disabilities on Jan. 22-23, 2009.

We are encouraging families with disabilities on Rota to contact NMPASI at 234-7273/4 for Frances Torres or Dorian Camacho or CNMI DD Council for Lillian Ada at 664-7005/7000 or cell phone no. 287-5643 for an appointment. ***(PR)***

**BIRTHDAY SHOUT-OUT**

Happy 22nd birthday "Master" Luis Reyes. Hope you enjoy your day with many more to come! Love always, your god-daughter Loutricia and the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO


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# Library training opportunity in Pohnpei

If you are a resident of the U.S.-affiliated Pacific and are currently working in a library, archive, or museum, you may be eligible for a training opportunity funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (www.imls.gov) and administered by Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (www.prel.org). Leaders for Pacific Libraries is a three-year project funded by IMLS to offer training for pre-professional library staff.

The third and final LPL training, "Building Digital Library Collections With Greenstone," will be held May 4–22, 2009, on the national campus of the College of Micronesia-FSM (www.comfsm.fm/national), in Palikir, Pohnpei State, Federated States of Micronesia.

One week will be devoted to training on the software, and two additional weeks will be spent building a "Pacific Digital Library." The PDL will be an ongoing collaborative project of the participating institutions from throughout the U.S.-affiliated Pacific region.

In this hands-on workshop, participants will learn how to build a variety of different kinds of digital library collections with the Greenstone digital library software, a comprehensive, open source system for constructing, presenting, and maintaining information collections. Collections will be built from HTML documents; Word, PDF and PostScript documents; images in various formats; MP3 and MIDI audio; MARC records; and more. For each collection, various different full-text search indexes and metadata-based browsers will be created. We will discuss support for the Dublin Core, OAI, and METS standards.

Attendees will receive this open source software on a CD-ROM that we will provide, along with various sample files, so that they can take it home and install it on their own machines.

Applicants will receive award notification by April 3, 2009. Direct round-trip airfare to Pohnpei, housing, and a modest per diem will be included as part of this award.

For eligibility criteria and how to apply, visit http://www.prel.org/programs/clt/imls-lpl/call-for-applicants-2009-imls-lpl.aspx.

Carefully review the information on the above website to determine your eligibility, before completing the application process. Contact Jane Barnwell, IMLS LPL Project Director, at barnwellj@prel.org, if you have any questions about your eligibility or program requirements.

PREL is an independent, nonprofit corporation that serves the educational community in the U.S.-affiliated Pacific, the continental United States, and countries throughout the world. PREL administers the Regional Educational Laboratory Pacific, one of 10 Regional Educational Laboratories funded through the Institute of Education Sciences of the U.S. Department of Education. PREL has service centers in the U.S.-affiliated Pacific islands, including American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM: Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap), Guam, Hawai'i, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), and the Republic of Palau. ***(PREL)***

## FIVE PUPPIES FOUND IN DUMPSTER NEED HOME

Five puppies were found by a teacher on Monday in a garbage can. "They are adorable, tan, dewormed, and treated for fleas. They have very sweet temperaments. We have three left and they really need a loving home," the rescuers said. Homes were found for three puppies and the foster family has three more that are in need of responsible and loving homes. The puppies are thought to be about 5-6 weeks of age. There is one female and two males remaining to be adopted. Please contact the foster family if you are interested in adopting one or more of these puppies! Call 483-4243 for adoption.


COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 234-7144 or 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp

**PUBLIC NOTICE**
**January 22, 2009**

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY THRU ITS CHAIRMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD ITS REGULAR MEETING ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2009 AT 10:00 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE GAMING COMMISSION'S OFFICE, SAN JOSE VILLAGE, TINIAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 1. Roll Call
 2. Adoption of Agenda
 3. Adoption of Minutes
  a. December 11, 2008
  b. December 17, 2008
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. REPORTS
 1. Financial Report-CDA
 2. Legal Counsel's Report
IV. DIVISIONS/COMMITTEES
 1. Development Corporation Division (DCD)
  a. Loan and Borrower's Requests
 2. DBD/Public Finance Committee
  a. CPA-CDA Loan
 3. Administrative Matters/Personnel & Budget
  a. Executive Director – Update
  b. FY 2010 Budget
 4. QC Program/Economic Development Activities
  a. Adoption of Amendments to QC Rules & Regulations
  b. Saipan Laulau Development, Inc.
  c. Other QC Matters
V. OLD BUSINESS
 1. SBDC/Business Incubator
VI. NEW BUSINESS
 1. Credit Union
 2. Economic Summit, CDA-Department of Commerce
VII. OTHER MATTERS
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session)

/s/ PEDRO I. ITIBUS
Chairman, CDA Board of Directors



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**
**RFP09-DOC-044**

SUBMISSION: FEBRUARY 19, 2009 • TIME: 4:00 P.M.

**"FACILITATING AND DEVELOPING A MILITARY STRATEGIC PLANNING DOCUMENT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE-COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY COMMISSION"**

THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. MICHAEL ADA, SECRETARY OF COMMERCE VIA E-MAIL TO depcommerce.ada@gmail.com OR FAX TO (670) 664-3067 NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, FEBRUARY 09, 2009.

**PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERECED IS CLAIMED.**

/s/ **MICHAEL ADA**
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**
**RFP09-OPA-040**

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 06, 2009 • TIME: 4:00 P.M.

**"DRAFTING OF AND TRAINING ON A CNMI OPA MANUAL FOR THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC AUDITOR"**

THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL INQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO MR. MICHAEL PAI, PUBLIC AUDITOR BY FAX TO (670) 322-7812 OR E-MAIL TO mpai@opacnmi.com NO LATER THAN **JANUARY 30, 2009, CLOSE OB BUSINESS.**

**PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERECED IS CLAIMED.**

/s/ **MICHAEL PAI**
PUBLIC AUDITOR

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S


# Flashback

## A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

### January 22, 1999

**$100M water project backed at hearing**

A proposed water desalination plant for central Saipan drew support on Wednesday from residents frustrated over empty faucets which have struck some villages in recent years due to growing population and long dry spell. But some villagers still balked at a cost-sharing agreement offered by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation that will push water bills by as much as 10 times higher than the present rate to finance the $100 million project. Apparently irked by delay, legislators from Precint 3 vowed in a public hearing held late Wednesday to subsidize the project and move ahead with its construction which has been derailed for the past two years due to funding problem.

**Panel sets NMC probe over funding**

The House committee on Health, Education and Welfare will start an oversight investigation into the Northern Marianas College next week, focusing on operations, scholarships and financial management of CNMI's lone higher learning institution, its chairman said yesterday. The announcement was made after NMC students picketed the governor's office to protest against insufficient funds for the college scholarship program, which may imperil their education this spring semester. "We will get to the bottom why these policies of the college are different from what we tend to hear and read," HEW chair Rep. Heinz Hofschneider told reporters. "We will see how those scholarship money is being applied to the operations of the college," he added.

### January 22, 2001

**Filipinos celebrate Erap's ouster**

It was initially intended to be a protest march in support of hundreds and thousands of their kababayans who trooped to the historic EDSA in suburb Mandaluyong City in the Philippines to call for the resignation of President Joseph Estrada. But the Filipino community on Saipan ended up holding a prayer rally in celebration of the ouster of Mr. Estrada from the Philippine presidency only after a little over two years since he assumed the position following a landslide victory in 1998. Filipinos on the island marched from the Kristo Rai Parish Church in South Garapan to the American Memorial Park Saturday night where they stopped and held a small program highlighted by prayers for their embattled country.

**Mandarin may pull out of Saipan**

Mandarin Air is studying the possibility of pulling out of Saipan due to heavy losses as a result of low passenger load but officials said they are still looking at two more options to save the airline's operations on the island. Tinian Dynasty Hotel manager Tom Liu said travel agents from Taiwan have decided they will no longer handle 100 charter seats for both the Monday and Friday flights because of low passenger load. Mr. Liu said the five tour operators from Taiwan which took over the 100 airline seats per flight have suffered huge losses. Mandarin Air's load factor ranges only from 50 to 70 percent.

### January 22, 2002

**Projected revenue down by $35.6M**

In July 2001, former Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio submitted a $229-million budget for Fiscal Year 2002. In October that same year, he submitted a reduced budget of $206 million. Today, the new administration projected revenues at only $193.37 million. Yet despite such a huge drop, the Babauta administration is keeping its fingers crossed that the projections would still go up, with the expected revenue collections coming from the Business Gross Revenue Tax, amusement tax and other government levies that are due this January. These were disclosed during yesterday's briefing at the Office of the Governor, where Gov. Juan N. Babauta told Senate leaders that, although the plunge in revenues have not bottomed out yet, he is doing everything he can to stem the hemorrhage.

**US firm plans to operate floating hotel on Saipan**

In line with the Babauta Administration's target to bring in one million tourists annually, an Ohio-based company is planning to operate a floating hotel on Saipan that would include new tourist amenities other than suites and restaurants. The Sea Hotel Corporation wants to permanently dock a huge yacht at the bay near the fishing base in Garapan, which would be operated as a hotel. Aside from this, the company also plans to erect suites on an estimated 4-hectare coastal land. The structure would be connected to the yacht.

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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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## EDITORIAL

## A speech for our times

The inauguration of Barack Obama as the 44th president spoke more eloquently about the promise of this country than anything he could have said Tuesday. But his inaugural address, though less poetic and less provocative than some of his speeches as a candidate, effectively sounded the theme that the country can rebound from its current economic crisis.

The speech exuded an optimism reminiscent of Ronald Reagan. "We remain the most prosperous, powerful nation on Earth," Obama said. "Our workers are no less productive than when this crisis began. Our minds are no less inventive, our goods and services no less needed than they were last week or last month or last year. Our capacity remains undiminished."

The speech was rescued from boosterism, however, by Obama's criticism of "our collective failure to make hard choices and prepare the nation for a new age." In emphasizing responsibility and self-discipline, the president, paraphrasing St. Paul, said that "the time has come to set aside childish things." His prescription for renewal came from a Hollywood musical: "Starting today, we must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and begin again the work of remaking America." In policy terms, Obama said that would mean an activist federal government, but one that will end ineffective programs.

The speech was less lyrical than Obama's election-night address in Chicago, which was memorably punctuated by the affirmation "Yes we can." It also lacked the astringent analysis of his speech last year about race, in which he insisted that the controversy over remarks by the Rev. Jeremiah A. Wright Jr. reflected "the complexities of race in this country that we've never really worked through." Those who complained that it wasn't a "speech for the ages" may be correct; the compensation is that it was acutely attentive to the signs of the times.

That was true not only of passages about the economy but also of Obama's insistence that "America must play its role in ushering in a new era of peace." Those words suggest that the new president wasn't intimidated by criticism during the campaign of his willingness to reach out to nations suspicious of U.S. intentions. Especially significant was this line: "To the Muslim world, we seek a new way forward, based on mutual interest and mutual respect."

One curious note in Obama's speech was a line that could have come out of the mouth of George W. Bush: "Our nation is at war, against a far-reaching network of violence and hatred."

Obviously, U.S. military forces are engaged in armed conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Equally obviously, this nation faces a threat of more 9/11-style terrorism from al-Qaida and its imitators. But the notion of an undifferentiated war on terror (or on "Islamic fascism") blinded the Bush administration to important nuances in global politics. Worse, it provided a rationalization for violations of human rights and alliances with unsavory foreign leaders that exacerbated anti-Americanism around the world. The new president, usually so careful in his choice of words, mustn't echo the oversimplifications of his predecessor.

**(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times**

## Standing for something

**By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS**
*Special to the* Tribune

*Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.*

It's getting more difficult to find people and companies that stand behind their proposal. It's too easy to offer hype, hope, and happiness when trying to get a customer to buy in, without having any substance or intention of delivering on the promise.

Charlatans and politicians are notorious for this practice, but like moths attracted to a bright light, most people tend to sucker into the perpetual ploy, thinking this time it will be different. The laissez-faire attitude and actions of irresponsible hucksters and corrupt businesses is partially responsible for the economic predicament we are now facing. The other half of the huckster equation is the gullible people who buy into the scheme.

That's why it's refreshing to once in a while find a business that not only states their promise in writing, but unfailingly delivers on it. It doesn't mean that things will always go right, but they will always make it right if something goes wrong.

Some of the better companies will state their intentions in writing so it can be used as a standard to judge their performance. High standards tend to challenge everyone in the organization to serve in an excellent manner and act with integrity. These statements become more than just hype when they can be broken down to clear defined levels of behavior and results that are easy to assess.

Here are a couple of companies that are committed enough to their employees, customers and community to live by a code of conduct that determines acceptable behavior. The Uppollo Group of Companies is an established international air and sea freight forwarder with offices worldwide. They have a Code of Service Excellence that pledges to:

■ Continuously improve service quality and achieve customer satisfaction.
■ Work hard and continue to meet our customers' every need.
■ Commit to giving our best efforts to our customers.
■ Benchmark current costs to maintain competitiveness.
■ Establish measures to prevent service failures and achieve timely and enhanced deliveries.
■ Continue analyzing practical solutions to maximize opportunities and increase benefits.
■ Setup procedures to avoid operational problems.
■ Improve customer service with logistical information solutions via email or any possible means available to improve supply chain performance.
■ Understand that prompt quotations = quick decisions
■ Understand that an established global network = service reliability.
■ Continuously maintain a good reputation, which is the bedrock of our long-term working relationships.

Caterpillar, Inc. believes that their most important document is their Code of Conduct because its purpose is not just to provide a set of rules that covers every situation or challenge they face, but it serves as a daily guide for putting their values in action. It explains what integrity, excellence, teamwork, and commitment means to Caterpillar, and how they use these values to make sound, ethical decisions in the best interests of all their stakeholders. Here is how they expand upon their core values:

*Integrity is the foundation of all we do.*

*It is a constant. Those with whom we work, live and serve can rely on us. We align our actions with our words and deliver what we promise. We build and strengthen our reputation through trust. We do not improperly influence others or let them improperly influence us. We are respectful and behave in an open and honest manner. In short, the reputation of the enterprise reflects the ethical performance of the people who work here.*

*Excellence: We set and achieve ambitious goals.*

*The quality of our products and services reflects the power and heritage of Caterpillar — the pride we take in what we do and what we make possible. We are passionate about people, process, product, and service excellence. We are determined to serve our customers through innovation, continuous improvement, an intense focus on customer needs, and a dedication to meet those needs with a sense of urgency. For us, Excellence is not only a value; it is a discipline and a means for making the world a better place.*

*Teamwork: We help each other succeed.*

*We are a team, sharing our unique talents to help those with whom we work, live and serve. The diverse thinking and decision making of our people strengthens our team. We respect and value people with different opinions, experiences and backgrounds. We strive to understand the big picture, then do our part. We know that by working together, we can produce better results than any of us can achieve alone.*

*Commitment: We embrace our responsibilities.*

*Individually and collectively we make meaningful commitments— first to each other, and then to those with whom we work, live and serve. We understand and focus on the needs of our customers. We are global citizens and responsible members of our communities who are dedicated to safety, care for our environment, and manage our business ethically. We know it is both our duty and our honor to carry the Caterpillar heritage forward.*

The words in this Code of Conduct define Caterpillar and establish common principles and help to share a commitment to the highest standards of conduct. So what does your company stand for, and what reputation have you created with your customers? You can stand out from the business crowd by putting your standards in writing and letting your stakeholders know your commitment level. Be prepared to stand behind and live by your stated standards, and you will develop a reputation of trust among those with whom you live, work, and serve.

**EDITORIAL POLICY** The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# 'The time has come'

*Editor's Note: The following is the text of President Barack Obama's inaugural address, delivered Jan. 20, 2009, after being sworn in to office.*

**By BARACK H. OBAMA**
*Special to the* Saipan Tribune

*Barack Obama is the 44th President of the United States of America.*

My fellow citizens:

I stand here today humbled by the task before us, grateful for the trust you have bestowed, mindful of the sacrifices borne by our ancestors. I thank President Bush for his service to our nation, as well as the generosity and cooperation he has shown throughout this transition.

Forty-four Americans have now taken the presidential oath. The words have been spoken during rising tides of prosperity and the still waters of peace. Yet, every so often the oath is taken amidst gathering clouds and raging storms. At these moments, America has carried on not simply because of the skill or vision of those in high office, but because We the People have remained faithful to the ideals of our forbearers, and true to our founding documents.

So it has been. So it must be with this generation of Americans.

That we are in the midst of crisis is now well understood. Our nation is at war, against a far-reaching network of violence and hatred. Our economy is badly weakened, a consequence of greed and irresponsibility on the part of some, but also our collective failure to make hard choices and prepare the nation for a new age. Homes have been lost; jobs shed; businesses shuttered. Our healthcare is too costly; our schools fail too many; and each day brings further evidence that the ways we use energy strengthen our adversaries and threaten our planet.

These are the indicators of crisis, subject to data and statistics. Less measurable but no less profound is a sapping of confidence across our land—a nagging fear that America's decline is inevitable, and that the next generation must lower its sights.

Today I say to you that the challenges we face are real. They are serious and they are many. They will not be met easily or in a short span of time. But know this, America—they will be met.

On this day, we gather because we have chosen hope over fear, unity of purpose over conflict and discord.

On this day, we come to proclaim an end to the petty grievances and false promises, the recriminations and worn out dogmas, that for far too long have strangled our politics.

We remain a young nation, but in the words of Scripture, the time has come to set aside childish things. The time has come to reaffirm our enduring spirit; to choose our better history; to carry forward that precious gift, that noble idea, passed on from generation to generation: the God-given promise that all are equal, all are free, and all deserve a chance to pursue their full measure of happiness.

In reaffirming the greatness of our nation, we understand that greatness is never a given. It must be earned. Our journey has never been one of shortcuts or settling for less. It has not been the path for the faint-hearted—for those who prefer leisure over work, or seek only the pleasures of riches and fame. Rather, it has been the risk-takers, the doers, the makers of things—some celebrated, but more often men and women obscure in their labor, who have carried us up the long, rugged path towards prosperity and freedom.

For us, they packed up their few worldly possessions and traveled across oceans in search of a new life.

For us, they toiled in sweatshops and settled the West; endured the lash of the whip and plowed the hard earth.

For us, they fought and died, in places like Concord and Gettysburg; Normandy and Khe Sahn.

Time and again these men and women struggled and sacrificed and worked till their hands were raw so that we might live a better life. They saw America as bigger than the sum of our individual ambitions; greater than all the differences of birth or wealth or faction.

This is the journey we continue today. We remain the most prosperous, powerful nation on Earth. Our workers are no less productive than when this crisis began. Our minds are no less inventive, our goods and services no less needed than they were last week or last month or last year. Our capacity remains undiminished. But our time of standing pat, of protecting narrow interests and putting off unpleasant decisions—that time has surely passed. Starting today, we must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and begin again the work of remaking America.

For everywhere we look, there is work to be done. The state of the economy calls for action, bold and swift, and we will act—not only to create new jobs, but to lay a new foundation for growth. We will build the roads and bridges, the electric grids and digital lines that feed our commerce and bind us together. We will restore science to its rightful place, and wield technology's wonders to raise healthcare's quality and lower its cost. We will harness the sun and the winds and the soil to fuel our cars and run our factories. And we will transform our schools and colleges and universities to meet the demands of a new age. All this we can do. And all this we will do.

Now, there are some who question the scale of our ambitions—who suggest that our system cannot tolerate too many big plans. Their memories are short. For they have forgotten what this country has already done; what free men and women can achieve when imagination is joined to common purpose, and necessity to courage.

What the cynics fail to understand is that the ground has shifted beneath them—that the stale political arguments that have consumed us for so long no longer apply. The question we ask today is not whether our government is too big or too small, but whether it works—whether it helps families find jobs at a decent wage, care they can afford, a retirement that is dignified. Where the answer is yes, we intend to move forward. Where the answer is no, programs will end. And those of us who manage the public's dollars will be held to account - to spend wisely, reform bad habits, and do our business in the light of day—because only then can we restore the vital trust between a people and their government.

Nor is the question before us whether the market is a force for good or ill. Its power to generate wealth and expand freedom is unmatched, but this crisis has reminded us that without a watchful eye, the market can spin out of control—and that a nation cannot prosper long when it favors only the prosperous. The success of our economy has always depended not just on the size of our Gross Domestic Product, but on the reach of our prosperity; on our ability to extend opportunity to every willing heart—not out of charity, but because it is the surest route to our common good.

As for our common defense, we reject as false the choice between our safety and our ideals. Our Founding Fathers, faced with perils we can scarcely imagine, drafted a charter to assure the rule of law and the rights of man, a charter expanded by the blood of generations. Those ideals still light the world, and we will not give them up for expedience's sake. And so to all other peoples and governments who are watching today, from the grandest capitals to the small village where my father was born: know that America is a friend of each nation and every man, woman, and child who seeks a future of peace and dignity, and that we are ready to lead once more.

> *'Today I say to you that the challenges we face are real. They are serious and they are many. They will not be met easily or in a short span of time. But know this, America—they will be met.'*

Recall that earlier generations faced down fascism and communism not just with missiles and tanks, but with sturdy alliances and enduring convictions. They understood that our power alone cannot protect us, nor does it entitle us to do as we please. Instead, they knew that our power grows through its prudent use; our security emanates from the justness of our cause, the force of our example, the tempering qualities of humility and restraint.

We are the keepers of this legacy. Guided by these principles once more, we can meet those new threats that demand even greater effort—even greater cooperation and understanding between nations. We will begin to responsibly leave Iraq to its people, and forge a hard-earned peace in Afghanistan. With old friends and former foes, we will work tirelessly to lessen the nuclear threat, and roll back the specter of a warming planet. We will not apologize for our way of life, nor will we waver in its defense, and for those who seek to advance their aims by inducing terror and slaughtering innocents, we say to you now that our spirit is stronger and cannot be broken; you cannot outlast us, and we will defeat you.

For we know that our patchwork heritage is a strength, not a weakness. We are a nation of Christians and Muslims, Jews and Hindus—and non-believers. We are shaped by every language and culture, drawn from every end of this Earth; and because we have tasted the bitter swill of civil war and segregation, and emerged from that dark chapter stronger and more united, we cannot help but believe that the old hatreds shall someday pass; that the lines of tribe shall soon dissolve; that as the world grows smaller, our common humanity shall reveal itself; and that America must play its role in ushering in a new era of peace.

To the Muslim world, we seek a new way forward, based on mutual interest and mutual respect. To those leaders around the globe who seek to sow conflict, or blame their society's ills on the West—know that your people will judge you on what you can build, not what you destroy. To those who cling to power through corruption and deceit and the silencing of dissent, know that you are on the wrong side of history; but that we will extend a hand if you are willing to unclench your fist.

To the people of poor nations, we pledge to work alongside you to make your farms flourish and let clean waters flow; to nourish starved bodies and feed hungry minds. And to those nations like ours that enjoy relative plenty, we say we can no longer afford indifference to suffering outside our borders; nor can we consume the world's resources without regard to effect. For the world has changed, and we must change with it.

As we consider the road that unfolds before us, we remember with humble gratitude those brave Americans who, at this very hour, patrol far-off deserts and distant mountains. They have something to tell us today, just as the fallen heroes who lie in Arlington whisper through the ages. We honor them not only because they are guardians of our liberty, but because they embody the spirit of service; a willingness to find meaning in something greater than themselves. And yet, at this moment—a moment that will define a generation—it is precisely this spirit that must inhabit us all.

For as much as government can do and must do, it is ultimately the faith and determination of the American people upon which this nation relies. It is the kindness to take in a stranger when the levees break, the selflessness of workers who would rather cut their hours than see a friend lose their job, which sees us through our darkest hours. It is the firefighter's courage to storm a stairway filled with smoke, but also a parent's willingness to nurture a child, that finally decides our fate.

Our challenges may be new. The instruments with which we meet them may be new. But those values upon which our success depends—hard work and honesty, courage and fair play, tolerance and curiosity, loyalty and patriotism—these things are old. These things are true. They have been the quiet force of progress throughout our history. What is demanded then is a return to these truths. What is required of us now is a new era of responsibility—a recognition, on the part of every American, that we have duties to ourselves, our nation, and the world, duties that we do not grudgingly accept but rather seize gladly, firm in the knowledge that there is nothing so satisfying to the spirit, so defining of our character, than giving our all to a difficult task.

This is the price and the promise of citizenship.

This is the source of our confidence—the knowledge that God calls on us to shape an uncertain destiny.

This is the meaning of our liberty and our creed—why men and women and children of every race and every faith can join in celebration across this magnificent mall, and why a man whose father less than 60 years ago might not have been served at a local restaurant can now stand before you to take a most sacred oath.

So let us mark this day with remembrance, of who we are and how far we have traveled. In the year of America's birth, in the coldest of months, a small band of patriots huddled by dying campfires on the shores of an icy river. The capital was abandoned. The enemy was advancing. The snow was stained with blood. At a moment when the outcome of our revolution was most in doubt, the father of our nation ordered these words be read to the people:

"Let it be told to the future world ... that in the depth of winter, when nothing but hope and virtue could survive ... that the city and the country, alarmed at one common danger, came forth to meet [it]."

America, in the face of our common dangers, in this winter of our hardship, let us remember these timeless words. With hope and virtue, let us brave once more the icy currents, and endure what storms may come. Let it be said by our children's children that when we were tested we refused to let this journey end, that we did not turn back, nor did we falter; and with eyes fixed on the horizon and God's grace upon us, we carried forth that great gift of freedom and delivered it safely to future generations.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

| TODAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Partly cloudy. East winds 10 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy. East winds 10 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy. East winds 10 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. |
| ▲87° ▼78° | ▲87° ▼78° | ▲87° ▼78° | ▲86° ▼78° | ▲86° ▼78° |

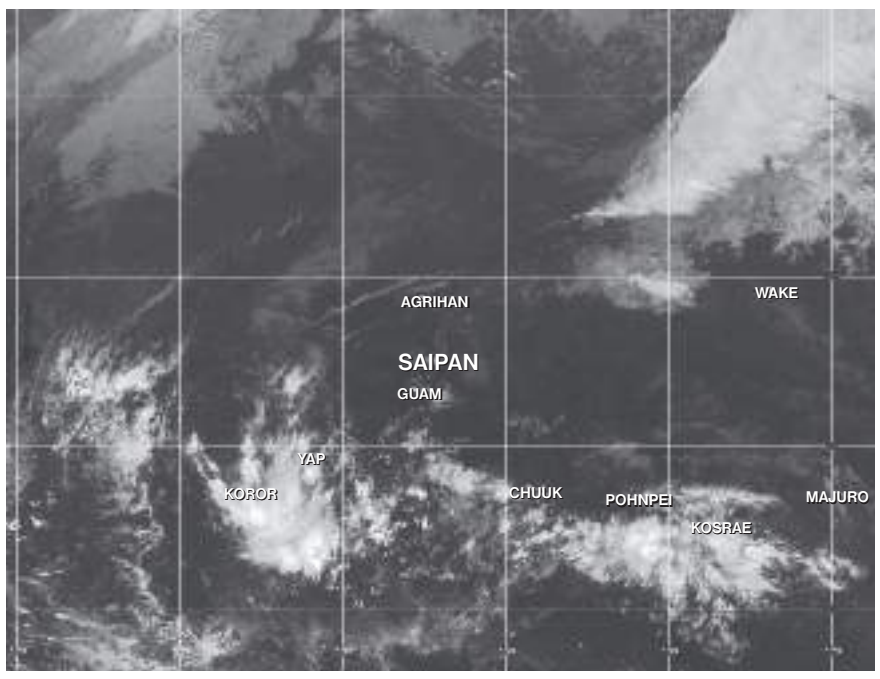
## Micronesia

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Mostly Sunny | ▲83 | ▼75 |
| Palau | Rain | ▲86 | ▼77 |
| Yap | Showers | ▲86 | ▼77 |
| Chuuk | Showers | ▲89 | ▼79 |
| Pohnpei | Showers | ▲86 | ▼78 |
| Kosrae | Showers | ▲86 | ▼79 |
| Majuro | Rain | ▲83 | ▼77 |

## Around The Globe

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Sunny | ▲74 | ▼65 |
| Beijing | Mostly Cloudy | ▲25 | ▼ 3 |
| Hong Kong | Sunny | ▲73 | ▼63 |
| Honolulu | Showers | ▲76 | ▼69 |
| London | Rain | ▲48 | ▼39 |
| Los Angeles | Rain | ▲64 | ▼52 |
| Manila | Showers | ▲84 | ▼74 |
| Melbourne | Showers | ▲88 | ▼55 |
| Miami | Sunny | ▲67 | ▼52 |
| New York | Mostly Sunny | ▲37 | ▼29 |
| Osaka | Rain | ▲56 | ▼36 |
| Paris | Rain | ▲49 | ▼42 |
| Pusan | Partly Sunny | ▲54 | ▼26 |
| Rome | Showers | ▲52 | ▼32 |
| Salem | Mostly Cloudy | ▲49 | ▼32 |
| San Francisco | Showers | ▲56 | ▼47 |
| Seoul | Snow | ▲41 | ▼21 |
| Tokyo | Showers | ▲51 | ▼39 |
| Washington, DC | Mostly Sunny | ▲44 | ▼30 |

## Yesterday's Satellite Image




**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JAN. 21, 2009**
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Converging winds along a weak surface trough stretching from 11N138E southward to EQ140E is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms bounded by a line from 10N134E to 6N145E to 2N138E to 6N133E back to 10N134E. This area is south of Yap but includes Koror. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Pohnpei, Kosrae and Chuuk within 90 miles of a line from 5N150E to 2N169E. A cold front enters the area at 25N160E extending southwest to the Northern Marianas Islands ending at 20N145E. Scattered showers can be found up to 70 miles north of the front from 25N160E southwestward to 24N154E.

## Tides

| Saipan Harbor | | |
|---|---|---|
| 6:59 AM Today | High Tide: | 1.6 Feet |
| 11:20 AM Today | Low Tide: | 1.4 Feet |
| 3:59 PM Today | High Tide: | 1.8 Feet |
| 11:59 PM Today | Low Tide: | 0.2 Feet |

## Sunrise/Sunset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 6:47 AM | 6:10 PM |
| Friday | 6:47 AM | 6:11 PM |
| Saturday | 6:47 AM | 6:11 PM |
| Sunday | 6:47 AM | 6:12 PM |
| Monday | 6:47 AM | 6:12 PM |

## Moonrise/Moonset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 3:23 AM | 2:42 PM |
| Friday | 4:14 AM | 3:33 PM |
| Saturday | 5:03 AM | 4:25 PM |
| Sunday | 5:50 AM | 5:17 PM |
| Monday | 6:33 AM | 6:08 PM |

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- BUSINESS
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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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**For pictures:**

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

**For announcements:**

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2009

### DEPARTURES

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Saipan-Rota** | | | |
| CO9597 | 11:50am | 12:25pm | 1,7 |
| **Saipan-Guam** | | | |
| CO9317 | 5:00am | 5:50am | Daily |
| CO9313 | 8:30am | 9:20am | Daily |
| CO9597 | 11:50am | 1:20pm | 1,7 via Rota |
| CO9601 | 12:30pm | 1:20pm | 2,3,4,5,6 |
| CO9603 | 3:30pm | 4:20pm | Daily |
| CO9605 | 6:30pm | 7:20pm | Daily |
| CO9599 | 9:30pm | 10:20pm | Daily |
| **Saipan-Narita** | | | |
| NW 099 | 5:00am | 7:35am | Daily |
| NW 078 | 8:20am | 1:30pm | 2,3,4,5,6,7 |
| NW 075 | 4:55pm | 7:30pm | Daily |
| **Guam-Narita** | | | |
| NW 73 | 4:10pm | 7:00pm | Daily |
| NW 81 | 3:55pm | 6:55pm | Daily |
| **Saipan-Osaka** | | | |
| OZ 119 | 4:00am | 6:40am | 1,4,6 |
| NW 083 | 4:30pm | 7:20pm | Daily |
| **Guam-Osaka** | | | |
| NW 79 | 4:45pm | 7:35pm | Daily |
| **Saipan-Nagoya** | | | |
| NW 078 | 8:20am | 11:05am | Daily |
| **Guam-Nagoya** | | | |
| NW 23 | 4:30pm | 7:20pm | Daily |
| **Saipan-Incheon** | | | |
| OZ 604 | 2:10am | 6:00am | 1 |
| OZ 604 | 2:40am | 6:30am | 2,3,4,5,6,7 |
| OZ 119 | 4:00am | 11:25am | 1,4,6 via Osaka |
| OZ 606 | 3:20pm | 7:00pm | Daily |
| **Saipan-Busan** | | | |
| OZ 608 | 3:20am | 6:50am | 1,4,5,7 |
| **Saipan-Shanghai** | | | |
| FM 844 | 2:50am | 5:40am | 2,6 |
| **Rota-Guam** | | | |
| CO 9597 | 12:50pm | 1:20pm | 1,7 |
| **Guam-Palau** | | | |
| CO 953 | 7:40pm | 8:40pm | 1,7 |
| CO 893 | 5:50pm | 6:50pm | 3,5 |
| **Palau-Manila** | | | |
| CO 893 | 7:35pm | 9:10pm | 3,5 |
| **Guam-Manila** | | | |
| CO 893 | 5:50pm | 9:10pm | 3,5 via Koror |
| CO 933 | 8:00pm | 9:40pm | Daily |
| PR 111 | 6:00am | 7:50am | 1,2,4,6,7 |
| **Nagoya-Manila** | | | |
| NW 71 | 8:40pm | 11:55pm | Daily |
| **Incheon-Hongkong** | | | |
| OZ 721 | 9:20am | 12:00pm | Daily |
| OZ 723 | 7:45pm | 10:35pm | Daily |
| OZ 7173 | 8:00pm | 10:50pm | 5,7 |
| **Narita-Manila** | | | |
| NW 1 | 7:00pm | 10:55pm | Daily |

### ARRIVALS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Rota-Saipan** | | | |
| CO 9598 | 3:25am | 4:00am | 5,6 |
| **Guam-Saipan** | | | |
| CO 9316 | 2:30am | 3:20am | 1,2,3,4,7 |
| CO9598 | 2:30am | 4:00am | 5,6 via Rota |
| CO9596 | 7:00am | 7:50am | Daily |
| CO9600 | 10:20am | 11:10am | Daily |
| CO9602 | 2:00pm | 2:50pm | Daily |
| CO9604 | 5:00pm | 5:50pm | Daily |
| CO9606 | 8:00pm | 8:50pm | Daily |
| **Narita-Saipan** | | | |
| NW 076 | 10:15am | 2:40pm | Daily |
| NW 077 | 6:25pm | 1:20am+1 | 2,3,4,5,6,7 |
| NW 100 | 8:45pm | 1:10am+1 | Daily |
| **Narita-Guam** | | | |
| NW 74 | 9:45am | 2:20pm | Daily |
| NW 82 | 10:30am | 3:10pm | Daily |
| **Osaka-Saipan** | | | |
| OZ 120 | 9:50pm | 2:20am+1 | 3,5,7 |
| NW 084 | 10:40am | 3:05pm | Daily |
| **Osaka-Guam** | | | |
| NW 80 | 10:30am | 3:00pm | Daily |
| **Nagoya-Saipan** | | | |
| NW 077 | 9:00pm | 1:20am+1 | Daily |
| **Nagoya-Guam** | | | |
| NW 24 | 10:00am | 2:30pm | Daily |
| **Incheon-Saipan** | | | |
| OZ 605 | 9:00am | 2:20pm | Daily |
| OZ 603 | 7:40pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 |
| OZ 120 | 7:10pm | 2:20am+1 | 3,5,7 via Osaka |
| OZ 603 | 8:10pm | 1:30am+1 | 1,2,3,4,5,6 |
| **Busan-Saipan** | | | |
| OZ 607 | 9:00pm | 2:10am+1 | 3,4,6,7 |
| **Shanghai-Saipan** | | | |
| FM 843 | 7:15pm | 1:50am+1 | 1,5 |
| **Guam-Rota** | | | |
| CO 9598 | 2:30am | 3:00am | 5,6 |
| **Palau-Guam** | | | |
| CO 954 | 2:30am | 5:25am | 1,2 |
| CO 892 | 2:35am | 5:30am | 4,6 |
| **Manila-Palau** | | | |
| CO 892 | 10:10pm | 1:50am+1 | 3,5 |
| **Manila-Guam** | | | |
| CO 892 | 10:10pm | 5:30am+1 | 3,5 via Koror |
| CO 934 | 11:10pm | 4:40am+1 | Daily |
| PR 110 | 10:10pm | 4:00am+1 | 1,3,5,6,7 |
| **Manila-Nagoya** | | | |
| NW 72 | 6:30am | 11:05am | Daily |
| **Hongkong-Incheon** | | | |
| OZ 724 | 12:30am | 4:50am | Daily |
| OZ 7183 | 12:45am | 5:05am | 1,4,6 |
| OZ 722 | 1:30pm | 5:45pm | Daily |
| **Manila-Narita** | | | |
| NW 2 | 7:45am | 12:40pm | Daily |

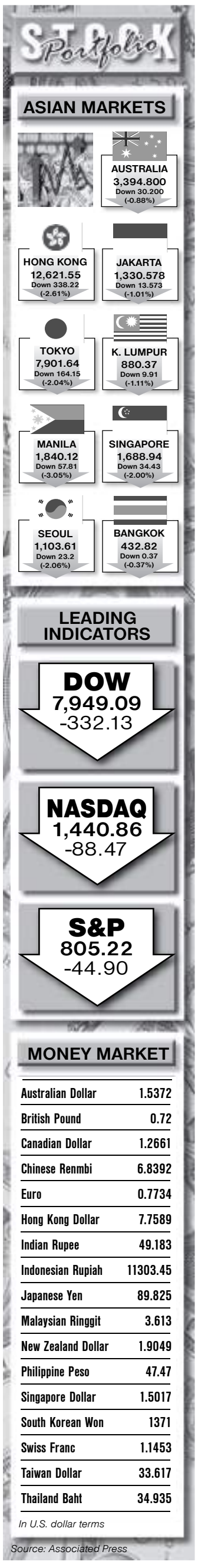
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Guam-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 100 | 7:00am | 7:30am | Daily |
| **Rota-Saipan** | | | |
| FRE 100 | 7:50am | 8:20am | Daily |
| **Saipan-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 200 | 9:00am | 9:30am | Daily |
| **Rota-Guam** | | | |
| FRE 200 | 9:50am | 10:15am | Daily |
| **Guam-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 300 | 4:00pm | 4:30pm | Daily |
| **Rota-Saipan** | | | |
| FRE 300 | 4:50pm | 5:25pm | Daily |
| **Saipan-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 400 | 6:00pm | 6:30pm | Daily |
| **Rota-Guam** | | | |
| FRE 400 | 6:45pm | 7:15pm | Daily |
| **Saipan-Tinian** | | | |
| FRE 101 | 6:45am | 6:55am | Daily |
| FRE 103 | 7:30am | 7:40am | Daily |
| FRE 105 | 8:00am | 8:10am | Daily |
| FRE 107 | 8:40am | 8:50am | Daily |
| FRE 109* | 9:10am | 9:20am | Daily |
| FRE 111* | 10:45am | 10:55am | Daily |

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|
| FRE 113 | 11:40am | 11:50am | Daily |
| FRE 115 | 1:00pm | 1:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 117 | 2:30pm | 2:40pm | Daily |
| FRE 119 | 4:00pm | 4:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 121 | 4:40pm | 4:50pm | Daily |
| FRE 123 * | 5:40pm | 5:50pm | Daily |
| FRE 125 * | 6:00pm | 6:10pm | Daily |
| **Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**** | | | |
| FRE 102 | 7:05am | 7:15am | Daily |
| FRE 104 | 7:50am | 8:00am | Daily |
| FRE 106** | 8:20am | 8:30am | Daily |
| FRE 108** | 9:00am | 9:10am | Daily |
| FRE 110 | 10:00am | 10:10am | Daily |
| FRE 112 | 11:05am | 11:15am | Daily |
| FRE 114 | 12:00pm | 12:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 116 | 1:30pm | 1:40pm | Daily |
| FRE 118 | 2:50pm | 3:00pm | Daily |
| FRE 120** | 4:20pm | 4:30pm | Daily |
| FRE 122** | 5:00pm | 5:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 124 | 6:05pm | 6:15pm | Daily |
| FRE 126 | 6:20pm | 6:30pm | Daily |

# Business




## Obama's Treasury nominee facing Senate questions

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—With the country facing a worsening economic crisis, President Barack Obama is hoping to win quick approval of his choice of Timothy Geithner to be Treasury secretary, but first Geithner has to explain how he missed paying $34,000 in payroll taxes earlier in the decade.

The Senate Finance Committee was scheduled to hear from Geithner on Wednesday with his tax mistake expected to be among a number of questions that panel members will pursue. The hearing is being held against the backdrop of a worsening situation in the banking industry.

Shares of major banks plunged on Tuesday as investors feared that an unraveling financial bailout will force the new administration to intervene more deeply into the nation's banking system. Many observers believe the Obama team will have to pump more money into banks or create an entity to take over their toxic assets.

Such moves could dramatically increase government government's involvement in banks, potentially threatening shareholders whose holdings could be wiped out in the event of a takeover.

Even before the shares of banks such as Citigroup Inc. and Bank of America took a renewed tumble, there was widespread unhappiness among lawmakers about how the Bush administration had handled the $700 billion rescue program that Congress passed on Oct. 3 in response to the nation's most severe financial crisis since the Great Depression.

Obama's team has signaled that it plans to greatly revise that program with the aim of getting more help to homeowners threatened with foreclosures and also imposing more strings on the billions of dollars that banks are receiving to make sure the money goes to increased lending.

Lawmakers are also expected to press Geithner for details on what changes the new president will be willing to accept to a massive $825 billion economic stimulus program that Obama hopes to get through Congress in the next few weeks.

AP

Treasury Secretary-designate Timothy Geithner talks to a friend before "We Are One: Opening Inaugural Celebration at the Lincoln Memorial" in Washington, Sunday, Jan. 18, 2009.

## Cost-cutting Google scraps newspaper ad program

**SAN FRANCISCO** (AP)—Google Inc. is giving up on selling print ads for the ailing newspaper industry, ending a 2-year-old attempt to extend its dominance of Internet marketing into another medium.

The retrenchment announced Tuesday is part of a cost-cutting campaign aimed at boosting Google's profits as the deepening recession eats away at Google's bread-and-butter business of selling ads on its own Web site and thousands of other Internet destinations.

Emboldened by its online success, Google set out in November 2006 to help newspapers that have seen their revenue evaporate as more advertisers shifted their spending to the Internet to connect with the Web's growing audience.

Under the program, potential advertisers were allowed to bid online to fill unsold space in the participating newspapers, leaving it up to publishers whether to accept the offers.

But Mountain View, Calif.-based Google concluded that its online expertise wasn't paying off in print, prompting management to pull the plug on its newspaper program effective Feb. 28.

The decision affects about 800 U.S. newspapers, up from the 50 publications that had initially enlisted Google's help.

"While we hoped that print ads would create a new revenue stream for newspapers and produce more relevant advertising for consumers, the product has not created the impact that we—or our partners—wanted," Spencer Spinnell, Google's director of the program, wrote in a Tuesday blog posting.

## IBM sunny about 2009 despite dreary forecasts

**SAN FRANCISCO** (AP)—In what promises to be a dismal year for tech spending, IBM Corp. packed a wallop of a surprise with its 2009 profit guidance: the numbers were so far ahead of Wall Street's forecast they were initially met with disbelief.

The Armonk, N.Y.-based company predicted at least $9.20 per share in profit in 2009, a full 45 cents per share better than the average estimate of analysts polled by Thomson Reuters. The forecast is an extremely bullish statement by IBM. It reflects the company's belief that it can outmaneuver the financial crisis by focusing on services and software deals that carry big profit margins, but also help businesses cut costs by offloading some of their tech chores.

IBM revealed the rosy forecast Tuesday as it reported profit for the fourth quarter of 2008 that also sailed past analyst estimates, while sales fell short.

IBM's net income for the period was $4.4 billion, or $3.28 per share. That amounted to a 12 percent profit increase from $3.95 billion, or $2.80 per share, in the same period a year earlier.

Analysts were expecting IBM to earn $3.03 per share this time.

IBM shares jumped 4 percent in extended trading.

"To be honest, I didn't believe they could show something like this—I think the results they posted were stellar," said Peter Misek, an analyst with Canaccord Adams. "They just executed really well—really, really, really well."

## GM official says cash could run out by March 31

**DETROIT** (AP)—The target date for General Motors Corp. to get its second installment of government loans passed last week, but a top company executive says he expects the money to arrive in the next several days.

Fritz Henderson, GM's president and chief operating officer, said without the second installment of $5.4 billion, the company would run out of cash long before March 31.

In December, the Treasury Department authorized $13.4 billion in loans for GM and another $4 billion for Chrysler LLC to keep both automakers out of bankruptcy.

GM received $4 billion late last year and was to get $5.4 billion Jan. 16 and another $4 billion on Feb. 17, the day it is to submit its plan to show the government how it will become viable.

Henderson told the Automotive News World Congress in Detroit that the money is critically needed to pay its bills. He attributed the delay in receiving the second installment to the Treasury Department's workload and the change in administrations.

"If we don't get our second installment of the funding we'll run out of cash, it's that's simple," he said. "We've been finalizing what we need to do. We anticipate receiving it. But it's critical that we receive it."

Henderson also disagreed with United Auto Workers President Ron Gettelfinger who said on Monday that that a mid-February deadline for General Motors and Chrysler to complete their restructuring plans may be "almost unattainable" and that the automakers may have been set up to fail.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Asia stocks track US down after Obama inauguration

**HONG KONG** (AP)—Asian stock markets dropped Wednesday, with benchmarks in Japan and Hong Kong losing nearly 2 percent, as concern that rising bank losses will cripple the world economy overshadowed the inauguration of U.S. President Barack Obama. Asia's downward lurch followed Wall Street, where investors returning from a holiday reacted with alarm to a rash of negative news about Western banks like Royal Bank of Scotland and sent key stock measures tumbling by more than 4 percent. Sentiment across the region was dour even as Obama assumed power Tuesday vowing to "begin the work of remaking America," with hopes fading his administration can bring about a quick recovery in the world's largest economy through a massive stimulus package planned later this year.

### Oil rises to $41 despite grim economic news

**SINGAPORE** (AP)—Oil prices rose slightly to above $41 a barrel Wednesday in Asia despite dismal economic news that pointed to deteriorating crude demand. Light, sweet crude for March delivery was up 37 cents at $41.21 a barrel by midday in Singapore in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell $1.53 overnight to settle at $40.84. The February contract, which expired Tuesday, rose $2.23 to settle at $38.74 a barrel. Bad news from the banking sector left investors concerned that a deepening global slowdown will further undermine demand for crude. Royal Bank of Scotland said Tuesday its losses for last year could top $41 billion, which would be the biggest loss ever for a British corporation. The British government injected more money into the struggling bank Monday and announced plans for another round of bailouts for the country's banks. U.S. banks State Street and Regions Financial Corp. also reported big earnings drops Tuesday. The Dow Jones industrial index, which oil traders look to as a barometer of investor sentiment about the economy, fell 4 percent Tuesday.

# Nation

# Vast, excited crowd hails Obama's rise

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—A vast, excited crowd of more than 1 million bore witness Tuesday to a transfer of American power like none before it. The blare of regal trumpets and thunder of cannon were familiar. The transition from Republican to Democrat, and gray hair to dark, had happened before.

This, however, was white to black, a shattering of racial barriers finally made complete when Barack Obama made it through a bumbled oath-taking, delivered a momentous-by-definition speech and got back to being his unflappable self.

The Democrat who charged onto the national scene saying this was not a nation of red states and blue states, but the United States, became president while wearing a red tie, the Republican color.

Republican George W. Bush, president no more, wore a blue tie, the Democratic color. They embraced at the Capitol and walked out together.

"Everybody is behind him," said Mikki Hill, 26, who traveled from Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and marveled at the multiracial multitudes. "Everybody's come from as far as the Earth is wide."

AP

In this photograph provided by Vermont Sen. Patrick Leahy, a crowd gathers on the Mall for the inauguration of President Barack Obama in Washington, Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2009.

So it seemed on a day when change and continuity marched together in a spectacle of pageantry and raw emotion.

A couple of hours after being sworn in, Obama and his wife, Michelle, got out of their armored limousine bearing the license plate USA 1 and strolled together down the middle of Pennsylvania Avenue, holding hands and waving during the spirited inaugural parade. People along the packed parade route screeched in greeting.

Some 13,000 marchers from 50 states paraded along the avenue, passing the Obamas in their enclosed reviewing stand in front of the White House. The sun was falling by then and many watching the parade had been there in the biting cold since dawn or earlier.

The racial milestone lent a deeply personal dimension for many in the crowds as well as a historical landmark for all.

"I've been real emotional all morning thinking about my grandmother and the heroes whose shoulders we stand on," said Lyshundria Houston, 34, here from Memphis, after more than 20 hours of travel. Houston, who is black, said: "They'd be so proud."

## Sen. Kennedy OK after seizure at Obama's luncheon

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, ill with a brain tumor, was hospitalized Tuesday but quickly reported feeling well after suffering a seizure at a post-inauguration luncheon for President Barack Obama. "After testing, we believe the incident was brought on by simple fatigue," Dr. Edward Aulisi, chairman of neurosurgery at Washington Hospital Center said in a statement released by the senator's office.

"He will remain ... overnight for observation, and will be released in the morning."

The statement said the 76-year-old senator "is awake, talking with family and friends, and feeling well."

The statement did not disclose the tests that were performed on Kennedy, whose seizure was witnessed by several fellow senators seated with him at lunch.

Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., told reporters he and Kennedy's wife, Vicki, grabbed the senator as he became ill.

Added Sen. Chris Dodd, D-Conn., "It took a lot out of him. Seizures are exhausting."

Even so, Dodd quoted Kennedy as saying, "I'll be OK, I'll see you later" as he was put into an ambulance.

AP

In this photograph provided by Vermont Sen. Patrick Leahy, Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass. right, poses for a picture with his son, Rep. Patrick Kennedy, D-R.I., at the inauguration of President Barack Obama at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2009.

"The good news is he's gonna be fine," Dodd added.

Kennedy had appeared in good health and spirits a few hours earlier when he stepped out of the Capitol and onto the inauguration platform where Obama took the oath of office. His endorsement of the former Illinois senator had come at a pivotal point in the Democratic presidential race, and the older man campaigned energetically for the younger one.

## Relationship gets official for Roberts and Obama

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Chief Justice John Roberts swore in Barack Obama as president Tuesday in the first of what could be many important interactions for the two men of differing politics who rose quickly to power. The encounter was briefly awkward after Obama stepped on Roberts' opening lines from the 35-word constitutionally prescribed oath of office. The chief justice then wandered into a verbal detour of his own.

By tradition, the presidential oath is administered by the chief justice, and in Roberts' case, it was his first inauguration since joining the Supreme Court in 2005.

Obama used the Bible on which Abraham Lincoln took the presidential oath in 1861. Roberts concluded the oath by adding, "So help you God?" And Obama, following a practice established by George Washington and followed by most presidents, replied: "So help me God."

Other than social encounters and official events, Obama and Roberts will likely see little of each other while overseeing their branches of government. Obama's legal team could be called upon to defend the president's most important policies in front of Roberts and his conservative-leaning court.

Former President George W. Bush left the court with two relatively young and reliably conservative voices, those of Roberts, 53, and Justice Samuel Alito, 58. Alito became a justice in 2006.

Roberts is the youngest chief justice in more than 200 years. He easily could still be in his role a quarter century from now, long after Obama has left office.

He and Obama are similar in many ways. Both are late baby boomers—Obama is 47. And both got their law degrees from Harvard and made rapid ascents to power. But their politics diverge sharply.

Roberts was an official in Republican administrations before becoming an appeals court judge and then chief justice under Bush.

## Inaugural prayers aim for a more diverse America

By RACHEL ZOLL
AP RELIGION WRITER

The clergy were Protestant, and so was the new head of state. But the inauguration Tuesday of President Barack Obama aimed for a much broader audience: an increasingly diverse America, where people want their beliefs acknowledged in the nation's most important ceremony. In his address, Obama referred to God and Scripture, saying, "the time has come to set aside childish things," from 1 Corinthians.

But he also reached out to American secularists, calling the United States, "a nation of Christians and Muslims, Jews and Hindus—and nonbelievers." The Center for Inquiry and the Council for Secular Humanism, based in Amherst, N.Y., called recognition in the inaugural address "truly historic and remarkable."

Evangelical pastor Rick Warren, whose participation drew criticism from liberals and gay rights groups, directly invoked Jesus as expected in his invocation, but did so personally.

"I humbly ask this in the name of the one who changed my life," he prayed.

He also quoted from the most important prayer in Judaism, the Sh'ma, when he said, "Hear O Israel, the Lord is our God. The Lord is One," and he called God "the compassionate and merciful one," a phrase from Muslim devotion.

"His was as inclusive a prayer as an evangelical can give," said Richard Mouw, president of Fuller Theological Seminary, a leading evangelical school in Pasadena, Calif.

The Rev. Joseph Lowery, a United Methodist considered the dean of the civil rights movement, focused on poverty and social justice.

"Lord, on the complex arena of human relations, help us to make choices on the side of love, not hate. On the side of inclusion, not exclusion. Tolerance, not intolerance," he said.

He called the stage where Obama took his oath "this mountaintop," a reference to the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s final speech. Lowery also quoted from the song known historically as "The Negro National Anthem."

"God of our weary years, God of our silent tears," he said, at the start of his benediction.

Prayers at inaugural ceremonies generally draw little attention, but this year was different. Obama spoke of his faith openly during the election, trying to change the image of the Democratic Party as hostile to religious voters. He has also welcomed nonbelievers, who tend to vote Democratic, in his speeches and public appearances since his earliest days of campaigning.

His supporters had been deeply upset by the prominence of the Christian right during the administration of President George W. Bush, and they watched to see what religious signals Obama would send at his swearing-in.

Warren is a Southern Baptist who wants to broaden the evangelical agenda to include environmental protection, fighting poverty and ending AIDS. He also backed Proposition 8, which banned gay marriage in his home state of California. Gay rights advocates and liberals were outraged that Obama had given Warren a place of honor at the ceremony.

Obama, who prays with Warren, said he wanted the event to reflect diverse views and insisted he remains a "fierce advocate" of equal rights for gays. The new president had also asked Bishop Gene Robinson of New Hampshire, the first openly gay Episcopal bishop, to give the opening prayer Sunday at the inaugural-kickoff event at the Lincoln Memorial.

# Bush tells cheering Texans 'it is good to be home'

**MIDLAND, Texas** (AP)—Waving cardboard red, white and blue "W"s, thousands welcomed George W. Bush and his wife on Tuesday to their post-presidential home in Texas.

"The presidency was a joyous experience, but as great as it was, nothing compares with Texas at sunset," Bush said to cheers from the crowd of about 25,000 as former first lady Laura Bush stood at his side. "Tonight I have the privilege of saying six words that I have been waiting to say for a while—it is good to be home."

In the hours leading up to his return, excerpts of some of Bush's speeches played on a large TV screen, including remarks he made to Congress shortly after the terrorist attacks in 2001. Among the state officials who attended was Texas Gov. Rick Perry, who took over after Bush became president.

One little boy waved a sign that read, "President Bush, thank you for keeping me safe" in multicolored lettering.

Bush spoke about the challenges he had faced as the 43rd president. He said that even during some of his most difficult days as president, he "was always optimistic about the future."

He lauded those who helped throughout his presidency.

"People came to Washington, D.C., not to serve George W. Bush, not to serve a political party, but they came because they wanted to serve the United States of America, and they did a fabulous job," he said.

With Bush at the rally were Karl Rove, former White House Chief of Staff Josh Bolton, former Attorney General Alberto Gonzales and others from his administration.

Bush defended decisions he said some thought unwise.

"I never took an opinion poll to tell me what to think," he said. "And I'm coming home with my head held high and a sense of accomplishment."

Jan Rhodes, a school teacher in Midland, was on hand when Bush left Midland eight years ago for his inauguration as president. She was back Tuesday.

"We watched for eight years and we're proud of how he served us and how he represented Midland," she said.

"It's a special day, but it's a sad day," said Dudley Winn, a cotton farmer who drove two hours from Lubbock to greet Bush. "He did the job we asked him to do. He kept our values safe."

AP

Former President George W. Bush and former first lady Laura Bush greet the crowd before a "Welcome Home" rally, Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2009, in Midland, Texas.

## *For older blacks, inauguration a dream fulfilled*

**ATLANTA** (AP)—As she watched Barack Obama descend the steps of the U.S. Capitol to be sworn in as the 44th president of the United States, 107-year-old Ann Nixon Cooper leaned forward in her seat, grinned and let out a contented sigh.

One of her grandsons asked, "How do you feel about having a black president?"

"Well," Cooper said at her home on Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in Atlanta, "I helped put him there."

And so she had.

It was not just Cooper. It was all the men and women of the black generations who endured the cruelties of Jim Crow, who knew the indignity of separate drinking fountains and the terror of snarling dogs. They fought back with sit-ins and boycotts and ballots.

On Tuesday, with weathered hands and an excitement that belied their age, they applauded Obama—and the role they played in sending one of their own to the White House.

"I was hoping for a great change that would happen in my day," said Cooper, whose story was highlighted in Obama's speech the night he won the election. "I put my thoughts into ideas pointed towards better days for our people."

AP

Ann Nixon Cooper, 107, left, watches the Presidential inauguration of Barack Obama on her television with friend James Davis Tuesday Jan. 20, 2009, in Atlanta.

# Authorities think money manager planned to vanish

**TAMPA, Fla.** (AP)—A missing hedge fund manager who owed investors a $50 million payout told his wife in a note he felt guilty about mismanaging people's money, and threatened to kill himself, according to a sheriff's report released Tuesday.

However, the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office said it believes Arthur G. Nadel planned his disappearance and that it was ending its search for him.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation will continue to investigate complaints from investors who were expecting Nadel to deliver the $50 million redemption on Jan. 15, the day after he disappeared.

The Florida financier's car was found at a Sarasota airport, and Sheriff's Lt. Chuck Lesaltato said they believe Nadel left on his own volition.

"He doesn't want to be found," Lesaltato said.

■■■

**PENSACOLA, Fla.** (AP)—A federal grand jury indicted an Indiana investment adviser Tuesday on charges of deliberately crashing his small airplane in the Florida Panhandle to try to fake his own death as part of a plan to escape financial ruin.

Authorities say Marcus Schrenker, 38, an amateur daredevil pilot and businessman, secretly parachuted to the ground before the crash and sped away on a motorcycle he had stashed away in central Alabama.

A three-day search came to an end on Jan. 13, when authorities finally caught up to Schrenker at a campground near Tallahassee, where they say he tried to take his own life by slashing one of his wrists.

# Boats scour icy Hudson River for US Airways plane engine

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Authorities using sonar in the search for the missing engine from US Airways Flight 1549 detected something about the size of the massive aircraft part deep in the frigid, murky Hudson River on Tuesday, but divers ran out of daylight before they could locate the object.

Crews will resume their search Wednesday. Police have already located several pieces of debris from the flight, including 35 flotation seat cushions, 12 life jackets, 15 pieces of luggage, two brief cases, 11 purses, 15 suit jackets and shirts, four shoes, and two hats, according to NYPD spokesman Paul Browne.

The missing left engine, however, is the most coveted prize. Investigators will examine it along with the plane's attached right engine to better understand how the jet conked out Thursday after hitting a flock of birds. All 155 people survived the miracle crash landing on the river, and US Airways said Tuesday that not even a pet perished.

New York Police Department harbor officers working with a sonar expert from the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration got a reading on an object 16 feet long and 8 feet wide in about 60 feet of water north of the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum, near where the plane made its emergency landing. The engine is about the same size as the object picked up by sonar.

Swift currents made it impossible to drop a robotic device with a video camera to confirm whether it is the engine, and evening fell before divers could find anything.

The developments came as hero pilot Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger attended President Barack Obama's inauguration. All the media-shy Sullenberger would say is, "I'm not allowed to say anything."

## ACROSS THE NATION

### CDC: Salmonella outbreak numbers increase slightly

**ATLANTA** (AP)—Health officials say the number of people sickened in a national salmonella outbreak involving peanut butter has grown to 485 cases. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Tuesday the number has been inching up as lab tests confirm that new cases have the same genetic fingerprint as the outbreak strain. The illnesses have been reported in 43 states and Canada, and may have contributed to the deaths of six people. The Food and Drug Administration has traced the outbreak to a Georgia plant owned by Peanut Corp. of America, which makes peanut butter and peanut paste. The government says consumers should avoid cookies, cakes and other foods containing peanut butter pending the results of the investigation. Peanut butter sold in jars to consumers is not included.

### Mich. police: Boy, 8, spent 10 days with dead mom

**ROMULUS, Mich.** (AP)—An 8-year-old boy lived for more than a week with the body of his dead mother before telling a concerned shopkeeper his mom was "in a better place," police said. Gaynell Tipado, 41, apparently died Jan. 9 in their apartment in the Detroit suburb of Romulus, and the boy survived in part by eating dried rice, butter and flour, authorities said. The family moved to Michigan from Louisiana after surviving Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Foul play was not suspected in Tipado's death, and an autopsy was pending. Lee Saco told The Associated Press that the boy and his mother came into Romulus Liquor regularly for about a year and a half. But four times during the past week the boy uncharacteristically walked about a block to the store by himself - sometimes through Arctic cold and other times wearing pajama bottoms. "I questioned him, 'Where is your mom?'" Saco said when the boy first came into the store by himself to buy milk, chips, candy and bread with cash. During the next two visits, he said the boy bought a number of items, including bread.

### Ind. man, 72, shaves shaggy eyebrows for charity

**BLOOMFIELD, Ind.** (AP)—A 72-year-old man with eyebrows so long he brushed them each morning raised $1,600 for charity from people who paid to take turns trimming his out-of-control brows. Some of the wiry hairs shorn from Si Burgher's shaggy eyebrows measured more than three inches long because the former jeweler's brows had never been trimmed. Burgher's eyebrows were so long he used to brush them before leaving the house. But he agreed to have the overgrown brows tamed last week by members of the Bloomfield Rotary Club to raise money for a polio eradication campaign. Burgher barely winced as his wife, Amy, got the first whack at the overgrown hairs. "I don't care if they ever grow back," he told The Herald-Times of Bloomington. "My wife says I look 20 years younger."

# Asia

## Chinese translation cuts out parts of Obama speech

**BEIJING** (AP)—The official Chinese translation of President Barack Obama's inauguration speech was missing his references to communism and dissent, while a live broadcast on state television Wednesday quickly cut away to the anchor when the topic was mentioned.

The comments by the newly installed U.S. president veered into politically sensitive territory for China's ruling Communist Party, which maintains a tight grip over the Internet and the entirely state-run media. Beijing tolerates little dissent and frequently decries foreign interference in its internal affairs.

At one point, Obama said earlier generations "faced down communism and fascism not just with missiles and tanks, but with sturdy alliances and enduring convictions." He later addressed "those who cling to power through corruption and deceit and the silencing of dissent—know that you are on the wrong side of history."

The Chinese translation of the speech, credited to the Web site of the official China Daily newspaper, was missing the word "communism" in the first sentence. The paragraph with the sentence on dissent had been removed entirely.

The censored version was carried by the state-run Xinhua News Agency and posted on popular online portals Sina and Sohu. Another portal, Netease, used a version without the paragraph mentioning communism, but retaining the part about dissent.

The news channel of state broadcaster China Central Television broadcast the speech live early Wednesday local time, but appeared caught off-guard by the statement about facing down communism.

The translator had no sooner said "fascism and communism" when the audio faded out from Obama's speech and cameras cut back to the studio anchor, who seemed flustered for a second before turning to ask an expert what challenges the president faces in turning around the U.S. economy.

Wang Jianhong, deputy director of the CCTV general editing department, said he did not stay up to watch the inauguration broadcast but suggested the transition was a normal part of the program.

"There are breakaways even when broadcasting China's own meetings," he said. "Americans might care a lot about the presidential inauguration, but Chinese may not be very interested."

No one in the editing department of the China Daily Web site was immediately available to answer questions.

The full translation of Obama's speech could be viewed on the Web site of Hong Kong-based broadcaster Phoenix Satellite Television, which has a reputation as a more independent news source. The China Daily Web site posted Obama's full remarks in English only.

## China: US arms sales to Taiwan 'harm' to relations

**BEIJING** (AP)—China made a rare appeal for cooperation between its normally secretive military and Washington on Tuesday but said U.S. arms sales to Taiwan remain a "serious harm to Sino-U.S. relations."

The statements came as China issued a major policy paper on national defense that said blocking formal Taiwanese independence remains the chief concern for one of the world's fastest-growing armed forces.

A Chinese military spokesman presenting the paper made an apparent reference to Taiwan as one of the "obstacles" the Pentagon should remove for better relations with China.

"At present, when China-U.S. military-to-military relations are faced with difficulties, we call on the U.S. Department of Defense to remove obstacles ... and create favorable conditions for the healthy growth of military relations," said Sr. Col. Hu Changming, chief spokesman for the Ministry of National Defense.

The policy paper itself said U.S. arms sales to Taiwan caused "serious harm to Sino-U.S. relations."

Though Hu did not specify those difficulties, China suspended some senior-level visits and other exchanges last fall in retaliation for the U.S's $6.5 billion arms sale to Taiwan that included Patriot III missiles and Apache helicopters.

Defense sales to and relations with Taiwan have been an issue for every U.S. president since Beijing and Washington established diplomatic ties 30 years ago. China considers the self-ruled island a part of its territory and threatens to attack it to prevent it gaining formal independence.

While arms sales remain an irritant, Taiwan should be less of a headache for President Barack Obama than it was for the Bush administration. Prolonged tensions between Taiwan and China have given way to rapprochement in recent months following last year's election of Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou, who favors a less confrontational approach to China.

Hu noted there had been major improvements in cross-strait relations, saying "the situation across the Taiwan Strait has taken a significant and positive turn."

But later Tuesday, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu reiterated China's opposition to Taiwan arms sales, warning that Washington should "cautiously and properly handle the Taiwan issue, (and) support the peaceful development of cross-strait relations with concrete actions."

The new paper on national defense also focused on long-running separatist movements in Tibet and the far western, largely Muslim region of Xinjiang as threats to China's national security.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### US reaches deal on Afghan supply routes to troops

**ISLAMABAD, Pakistan** (AP)—Russia and neighboring Central Asian nations have agreed to let supplies pass through their territory to American soldiers in Afghanistan, lessening Washington's dependence on dangerous routes through Pakistan, a top U.S. commander said Tuesday. Securing alternative routes to landlocked Afghanistan has taken on added urgency this year as the United States prepares to double troop numbers there to 60,000 to battle a resurgent Taliban eight years after the U.S.-led invasion. Meanwhile, the Pakistani army said it had killed 60 militants in a stepped up offensive close to the Afghan border, a lawless region considered a likely hiding place for Osama bin Laden and other al-Qaida leaders. Washington has long urged Islamabad to take the fight to the insurgents sheltering there. U.S. and NATO forces get up to 75 percent of their "non-lethal" supplies such as food, fuel and building materials from shipments that traverse Pakistan, a volatile, nuclear-armed country.

#### RP military rejects demand from kidnappers of ICRC workers to stop rescue operation

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—The Philippine military chief on Tuesday rejected a demand from the kidnappers of three Red Cross workers to halt rescue operations in a southern stronghold of al-Qaida-linked militants. Gen. Alexander Yano said easing the pressure on the kidnappers would allow them to further evade government forces on Jolo island, where the three International Committee of the Red Cross workers were seized last Thursday. Red Cross officials said the hostages—Swiss Andreas Notter, 38, Italian Eugenio Vagni, 62, and Filipino Mary Jean Lacaba, 37—have called colleagues in Manila every day since Friday telling them they were unharmed and that their captors want the military to halt operations. The ICRC said in a statement it has not talked with the kidnappers but added "efforts are continuing to secure the safe and unconditional return" of its workers. It did not elaborate.

# World

## Worldwide hopes soar for Obama inauguration

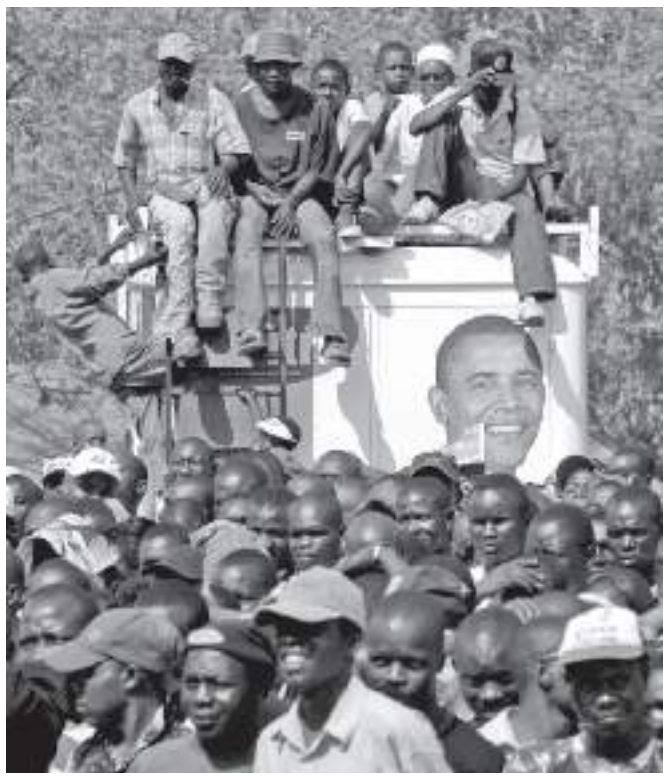
**LONDON** (AP)—The arrival of a new American president triggered joy and jubilation Tuesday in a world made weary by warfare, recession and fear. Bulls and goats were slaughtered for feasts in Kenya, toasts were offered at black-tie balls in Europe and shamans in Latin America chanted Barack Obama's name with reverence.

From Kenya and Indonesia, where Barack Obama has family ties, to Asia, Europe, Africa and Latin America, Obama's inauguration sparked a volcanic explosion of hope for better days ahead.

The ascendance of the first African-American to the presidency of the United States was heralded as marking a new era of tolerance and possibility.

Nelson Mandela, the former South African president who also inspired millions, sent a letter to Obama on his inauguration day.

"Your election to this high office has inspired people as few other events in recent times have done," Mandela wrote. "Amongst many around the world a sense of hopelessness had set in as so many problems remain unresolved and seemingly incapable of being resolved. You, Mister President, have brought a new voice of hope that these problems can be addressed and that we can in fact change the world and make of it a better place."



AP

Kenyans gather in Kisumu, Kenya, Tuesday Jan. 20, 2009, to celebrate the inauguration of Barack Obama as the 44th president of the United States.

The anti-apartheid icon's sentiment was echoed in much of the world.

Alex Andrade, a 24-year-old unemployed black Brazilian, said Obama's rise has inspired Brazil's poor.

"Blacks face so much discrimination here," he said, standing outside the Cantagalo slum, where ramshackle shacks line steep hills in Rio de Janeiro. "Now with a black man in charge of such an important country, it might help decrease the racism in Brazil."

## Israel denies Gaza munitions had depleted uranium

**JERUSALEM** (AP)—Israel on Tuesday denied allegations it used depleted uranium munitions in Gaza, accusing the Arab nations that made the report of "particularly poor propaganda."

On Monday, Arab nations asked the International Atomic Energy Agency to investigate reports that uranium traces were found in victims of Israeli shelling during the three-week campaign against Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip.

"This is a particularly poor propaganda spin," Yigal Palmor, spokesman for the Israeli Foreign Ministry, said Tuesday. "These accusations have been raised in the past many times and have been proven groundless each time by independent investigators."

■ ■ ■

**JERUSALEM (AP)—The Israeli military says it has withdrawn all of its soldiers from the Gaza Strip.**

**The military says the pullout was completed before dawn on Wednesday.**

**Israel sent thousands of troops into the Palestinian territory earlier this month as part of a bruising offensive against militants who have terrorized southern Israel with rocket fire for years.**

**Both sides declared ceasefires that went into effect Sunday. But the truce has been shaky.**

**Israel reported mortar shelling from Gaza on Tuesday. The Palestinians have said Israeli troops shot to death two farmers since the truce took hold.**

**The military says some troops remain massed on the Israeli side of the border and are prepared to take action if militant fire starts up again.**

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### US seeks to suspend Gitmo war crimes trials

**GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba** (AP)—The U.S. moved Tuesday to halt the Guantanamo war crimes trials, filing motions to suspend proceedings for 120 days until President Barack Obama's administration completes a review of the system for prosecuting suspected terrorists. The motions, made at the direction of Obama and Defense Secretary Robert Gates, will be considered early Wednesday by the military judges hearing the cases of five men charged in the Sept. 11 attacks and of Canadian Omar Khadr, who is accused of killing an American soldier with a grenade in Afghanistan in 2002. In the motion filed for the Sept. 11 case, U.S. military prosecutor Clay Trivett says a continuance is necessary in all pending cases because the review may result in significant changes to the system. "The interests of justice served by granting the requested continuance outweigh the interests of both the public and the accused in a prompt trial," Trivett wrote. He said the motion was written at the direction of the president and defense secretary.

#### Iraq willing to see US troops leave early

**BAGHDAD** (AP)—Iraq is willing to have the U.S. withdraw its troops and assume security for the country before the end of 2011, the departure date agreed to by former President George W. Bush, the Iraqi prime minister's spokesman said. Spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh made the comment Tuesday, a day before President Barack Obama and his senior commanders were to meet in Washington to discuss the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Obama promised during the campaign to withdraw all U.S. combat troops from Iraq within 16 months of taking office. The new president said in his inaugural address Tuesday that he would "begin to responsibly leave Iraq to its people." Al-Dabbagh told Associated Press Television News that Iraqis had been worried about a quick U.S. departure.

# Environment

# Victory garden idea blooms again

By MARY MACVEAN
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES TIMES
Julie Stern and Christo Brock say they were drawn to growing delicious food. Brock, a documentary filmmaker, doesn't think of himself as a patriotic gardener, but he is worried about the future of the planet. "The produce from Chile—it's not ripe or it has no flavor. And now it has a big carbon footprint," he said.

These days, planting lettuce or beets is a political act.

Just ask Julie Stern, who shares a backyard garden with her neighbor in Topanga Canyon in western Los Angeles county.

Or Sandra Young, who put raised beds of carrots, lettuce and beets in the front yard of her house in west Los Angeles.

Gardening, Young said, is one thing she as a citizen can do—"a step in the right direction."

During World War II, "victory gardens" planted at the behest of the federal government helped Americans cope with food shortages. (In World War I, they were called "liberty gardens.") By 1943, Americans had planted more than 20 million victory gardens and reportedly produced 8 million tons of food that one old film called "America's hidden weapon."

Now, in a fractured economic climate, a new victory-garden movement has captured the attention of people who want to lessen their reliance on mass-produced or imported food, reduce their carbon footprint, foster a sense of community or save on grocery bills.

When the National Gardening Association compiles its annual data later in January, market research director Bruce Butterfield expects to see a 10 percent rise in food gardening for 2008. Based on anecdotal evidence and trends in past recessions, he expects even stronger growth in 2009.

"People want to have more connection with their own world," said Yvonne Savio, manager of the Common Ground Garden Program for Los Angeles County-University of California Cooperative Extension, which includes a master gardener program to help people grow food. Applications, she said, have doubled in recent years.

Jimmy Williams, who runs Hayground Organic Gardening from his Los Angeles house, has 6,000 to 10,000 seedlings thriving on the roof of his garage. His business—selling seedlings and designing gardens—has quadrupled in the last year, he said.

Why?

"They're worried," Williams said. "They don't know what's going to happen."

The desire to grow food, however, crosses economic lines. Some people are struggling financially, but others prefer lettuce over lawns. Do-it-yourself types are eager for healthful food close at hand. And people see how much better food that they grow tastes.

"Even super-rich people who can afford to send people to any store anywhere—they even want gardens," Williams said.

Christy Wilhelmi, who teaches gardening at Santa Monica College, says that growing your own food is the shortest path possible from field to table, eliminating the need to transport crops, sometimes thousands of miles.

Behind her house, she gardens in eight raised beds, growing asparagus, strawberries, tomatoes and more. She would like to add chickens to eat kitchen scraps and garden pests, and provide eggs.

"It's very cyclical," said Charlie Nardozzi, senior horticulturist with the National Gardening Associationbased in South Burlington, Vt.

After World War II, gardening became a hobby in the 1950s and '60s. But with the "back to the land" movement of the 1970s, growing food again had serious purpose. That declined in the 1980s and '90s, but has surged again.

Seed companies have reported running out of some vegetables, and demand is higher than it's been in years, he said.

At W. Atlee Burpee & Co., sales of seeds for vegetables and herbs rose 40 percent in 2008, compared with 2007. A spokeswoman cited spikes in food and gas prices, as well as worries about food safety and interest in organic food.

In 1942, Jean-Marie Putnam and Lloyd C. Cosper's book, "Gardens for Victory," emphasized the financial savings: "Those dollars can go into the bank account, or you may patriotically transform your beet, onion and cabbage savings directly into Defense Bonds."

Today there is a confluence of concerns—a victory garden movement with a 21st century agenda, eager to involve people from the White House to the Internet to your back yard.

"It's the new call to service," said Mary Tokita, who has a plot at a community garden in Eagle Rock and is active on Los Angeles Community Garden Council.

More community gardens are opening, and rooftops are being planted in downtown Los Angeles, she said. "It's very, very heartening."

The movement has every potential to feel as urgent as the victory gardens of old, said Blair Randall, director of the Garden for the Environment, a demonstration garden in San Francisco where classes are offered in growing and composting.

"There is a greater diversity of reasons—economic, environmental, people who care about their food," he said.

Other converts can be found at community gardens, many of which were established during Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley's administration, said David King, a board member of the American Community Gardening Association. One common goal was "good, clean, wholesome food for under-served populations."

Today, community gardeners are motivated by economics as well as interest in the way food is grown, said King, who tends the 1-acre garden at Venice High School.

"There is a positive connection between putting their fingers in the soil and their own mental or spiritual well-being," he said.

The new victory garden movement still is after the brass ring: a president calling on citizens to plant food, and a first family with a garden.

Writer Michael Pollan, chef Alice Waters and others have called on the new administration to follow the example of the Franklin D. Roosevelt family by planting a food garden on the White House. An online petition, organized by the group Kitchen Gardeners International, hopes to persuade President-elect Barack Obama to plant an organic garden on "the first lawn."

"It would be so symbolic to tear up some of the lawn and put in vegetables," said Nardozzi. "It would be great."

## U.S. EPA solicits Environmental Award nominations

### Opportunity to recognize environmental champions

**SAN FRANCISCO**—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is encouraging citizens in California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii, and the Pacific Islands to nominate a friend, peer or organization for this year's U.S. EPA Environmental Awards program.

Nominations can be submitted online beginning Jan. 7 and ending Feb. 8.

The program seeks to recognize individuals and groups outside of the U.S. EPA who made significant contributions to improve the environment in the year 2008. Anyone can be nominated, such as scientists, teachers, journalists, citizen activists, young people, organizations, business representatives, public officials and others committed to protecting public health and preserving our natural surroundings.

Entries will be judged on the following criteria:

- promotion of innovative ideas, techniques, and/or technologies
- ability to address an environmental problem or need
- accomplishment of stated goals
- ability of the program/activity to be replicated or widely shared
- collaboration with others
- clarity and effectiveness of the presentation
- long term benefits for the environment

The deadline to submit nominations online is Feb. 8. An EPA panel will review all of the applications and select this year's winners, who will be notified by mid-March. Winners will then be recognized at a ceremony to be held in San Francisco mid-April.

For more information and to submit a nomination online, visit: http://www.epa.gov/region09/awards. For questions regarding the program, call the Environmental Information Center toll-free at (866) EPA-WEST or Wendy Chavez at (415) 947-4248. ***(EPA)***

## EPA releases report on sea level rise

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in collaboration with other agencies, has released a report that discusses the impacts of sea level rise on the coast, coastal communities, and the habitats and species that depend on them. The report, *Coastal Sensitivity to Sea-Level Rise: A Focus on the Mid-Atlantic Region*, examines multiple opportunities for governments and coastal communities to plan for and adapt to rising sea levels.

**ON THE NET**
- More information on the report: http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/effects/coastal/sap4-1.html
- Information on the U.S. Climate Change Science Program: http://www.climatescience.gov/

Sea-level rise can affect coastal communities and habitats in a variety of different ways, including submerging low-lying lands, eroding beaches, converting wetlands to open water, intensifying coastal flooding, and increasing the salinity of estuaries and freshwater aquifers. It is caused by a number of natural and human-induced factors and can vary by region. Some impacts of sea-level rise can already be observed along the U.S. coast.

The primary causes of global sea-level rise are the expansion of ocean water due to warming and the melting of glaciers and ice sheets. Locally, sea-level rise is also influenced by changes to the geology of coastal land, making coastal elevation mapping an important area of future study. The Mid-Atlantic region, the focus of this report, is one of the areas in the U.S. that will likely see the greatest impacts due to rising waters, coastal storms, and a high concentration of population along the coastline.

EPA led the development of the report with significant contributions from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Geological Survey.

The report is one of 21 climate change synthesis and assessment products commissioned by the U.S. Climate Change Science Program. CCSP was established in 2002 to provide the U.S. with science-based knowledge to manage the risks and opportunities of change in the climate and related environmental systems. The program is responsible for coordinating and integrating the research of 13 federal agencies on climate and global change. ***(EPA)***

# Life & Style

## Like never before, inauguration experienced online

AP

Elizabeth Plant, center, of Luther, Conn. waves an American Flag as Barack Obama took the oath of office during inauguration ceremonies in Washington, on Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2009.

**NEW YORK** (AP)—In an inauguration defined by a sense of change, the experience of watching Barack Obama take office was fittingly revolutionary.

Like never before, Americans watched the inauguration of an incoming president online through live video streaming across their computers. And wholly wrapped up in following Inauguration Day 2009 on the Web was reacting to them—blogging, vlogging and tweeting.

Essentially every major news outlet offered live feeds on their respective Web sites in what was potentially the most Web-driven coverage of a significant news event yet. It was partly out of necessity, since many viewers were at work in front of their computers—and away from TV sets—for the midday swearing in.

It was also a notable benchmark in the fast evolution of online video. At the time of the last inauguration, YouTube didn't even exist.

The major news portals—Yahoo.com, CNN.com, MSNBC.com, AOL News, The New York Times, ABC.com, CBS.com, Fox.com, WashingtonPost.com—all streamed the festivities, some with video embedded right on their home page for the first time.

Akamai Technologies Inc., which delivers Internet video for many Web sites, said the inauguration was a record for them, with 7.7 million people watching video streams at the same time.

So much video meant bandwidth was stretched considerably for many sites and many servers. On the whole, the webcasts appeared to function well, albeit with some lags.

Keynote Systems Inc., which tracks Web site performance, said the Internet's top 40 sites slowed down by as much as 60 percent when the ceremony started at 11 a.m., and many news sites saw even sharper declines in performance.

Many sites streaming the festivities gave four different perspectives on the ceremony, giving the viewer the option of watching the primary feed, the crowd amassed along the Mall or other views.

Several outlets looked to combine traditional coverage with new media interactivity.

CNN partnered with Facebook (for users of the social networking site) to include status updates from friends alongside the webcast. The result was that it (kind of) felt like you were watching along with your friends.

As of 3:30 p.m. EST Tuesday, CNN.com said it served more than 21.3 million live streams globally since 6 a.m. That was nearly four times the amount of live streams on the site on Election Day when there were 5.3 million lives streams.

Mimi Wong, a 28-year-old public defender from Brookline, Mass., watched the CNN.com webcast at work with her colleagues.

"It was pretty cool," said Wong. "I was actually kind of surprised that the connection was so good."

Current TV, the user-driven TV network co-founded by Al Gore, likewise combined streaming of the event with Twitter messages or "tweets." Messages from viewers played at the bottom of both Current's broadcast and webcast.

Other webcasts were offered by Hulu.com, C-SPAN.org, Joost.com, Ustream.tv (whose feed was available on iPhones, too) and the Presidential Inauguration Committee itself (http://www.pic2009.org ).

But not everyone had a seamless experience watching online.

Lyndsey Lewis, a 22-year-old student at the University of Florida, wanted to catch the inauguration online at her school library before heading to class. She checked the webcasts from numerous sites, including CNN and Hulu but was frustrated by the interruptions.

"There were so many pauses that I missed really crucial moments of the inauguration," said Lewis. "I didn't expect it to be TV quality, but I definitely thought it would be a lot better than it was."

Loath to leave behind his BlackBerry, Obama is easily the most tech-savvy president and the country's first president of the Web 2.0 era. Shortly before taking the oath, he also issued a tweet of his own:

"We just made history. All of this happened because you gave your time, talent and passion. All of this happened because of you."

The inauguration committee offered official inaugural news updates, transportation notices and invitations by cell phone text messages.

"There's just a lively discourse on our Web site," said Linda Douglass, a spokeswoman for the inauguration committee. "It's very satisfying because our goal here is to make people feel connected to the party and to the events in Washington and to their government."

Several sites aimed to let people in on the celebrations in Washington.

The Huffington Post hosted a ball Monday night in Washington that included blogging from attendees, live video on the Web site and photos.

ABC promised that its coverage of the Neighborhood Ball (one of the 10 official balls Obama planned to attend) would be video-linked with parties across the country.

Second Life and Wee World also hosted virtual inaugural balls so that even if you were far away from the festivities, your avatar could be partying the night away.

A number of sites offered bells and whistles to their coverage.

The Washington Post provided satellite imagery of the District of Columbia area and culled a user-generated photo mosaic of Obama through submissions on Flickr.com. (The photo site also began to see pictures pour

See LIKE on Next Page

## Poet offers 'praise song' for Inauguration Day

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Following the world's most awaited oration—President Obama's inaugural speech—poet Elizabeth Alexander echoed the new leader's tribute to daily labor, his call for responsibility and his reminder of the sacrifices that made his election possible.

"Say it plain: that many have died for this day," Alexander, 46, said Tuesday during her brief reading, in which she also spoke out to the world about "love that casts a widening pool of light, love with no need to pre-empt grievance."

Alexander's recital at the National Mall in Washington culminated her own surprising journey, from academic and award-winning poet to a platform that only the tiniest number of her peers have been granted. She is just the fourth inaugural poet, following Robert Frost, Maya Angelou and Miller Williams.

The poem, titled "Praise Song for the Day: A Poem for Barack Obama's Presidential Inauguration," consists of 14, unrhymed three-line stanzas, and a one-line coda: "praise song for walking forward in that light." It will be released as an $8 paperback, 32 pages, on Feb. 6 by publisher Graywolf Press with an announced 100,000 first printing, a veritable fairy tale for most poets, but not for an inaugural work. Angelou's "On the Pulse of the Morning," recited in 1993 at President Clinton's inaugural, was a million seller.

So far, response to Alexender's poem has been far milder than to Angelou's. As of Tuesday evening, "Praise Song" ranked No. 429 on Amazon.com.

Ceremonial poems, commissioned rather than inspired, rarely make for historic literature, and Alexander avoided direct references to political issues, current events or to Obama himself. Her poem was a grounded, nontopical summation and joining of minute details and infinite themes, connections that run through American verse from Walt Whitman to William Carlos Williams, and through such Alexander works as "Fugue" and "A Poem for Nelson Mandela."

Alexander

Alexander, wearing a bright red coat, delivering her poem in poised and determined style, offered a sketch of everyday work and interaction ("walking past each other, catching each other's eyes or not, about to speak or speaking"), and a Whitmanesque celebration of anonymous deeds:

■ ■ ■

*Sing the names of the dead who brought us here,*

*who laid the train tracks,*

*raised the bridges,*

*picked the cotton and the lettuce, built*

*brick by brick the glittering edifices*

*they would then keep clean and work inside of.*

■ ■ ■

Like Miller Williams' "Of History and Hope" and Angelou's "On the Pulse of the Morning," Alexander narrated history as a hard, but hopeful progression, a long and difficult question answered best by love, love "beyond marital, filial, national." Just as the unthinkable has happened in the past, anything remains possible now:

■ ■ ■

*In today's sharp sparkle, this winter air,*

*any thing can be made, any sentence begun.*

*on the brink, on the brim, on the cusp,*

*praise song for walking forward in that light.*

■ ■ ■

Alexander's reading was uneventful compared to the first inaugural poem, when Robert Frost, appearing in 1961 at the invitation of President Kennedy, couldn't make out the words of his text and recited from memory an older work, "The Gift Outright." Miller Williams, chosen to read in 1997 at Clinton's second swearing-in, had been the most recent inaugural poet.

Williams, watching from his home in Fayetteville, Ark., said Alexander had well completed the inaugural poet's task—economy, simplicity, telling an American story with "some nicely surprising adjectives." He did have a minor criticism—not with the poem, but with the presentation.

"I wish she had something after the resolution of the poem to let us know clearly that it was over," Williams said. "Had she read it in my living room, I would have said, `Keep your voice up at the end, and nod to the audience and say, "Thank you," when it's over.'"

Adam Kirsch of The New Republic was far more critical. He labeled the poem dull, "bureaucratic" and found it proved that "the poet's place is not on the platform but in the crowd, that she should speak not for the people but to them."

Alexander, a professor of African American studies at Yale University, has published five books of poems—not including the inaugural text—and a book of essays, "The Black Interior." Before participating in history at the Mall, she witnessed it: She was just a baby when her parents brought her to the 1963 March on Washington.

# Michelle Obama chooses white ball gown

By **SAMANTHA CRITCHELL**
AP FASHION WRITER

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—First lady Michelle Obama celebrated her husband's inauguration Tuesday night wearing a white chiffon, one-shoulder gown covered in fluffy appliques and beading that will now become part of fashion history.

Designed by 26-year-old Jason Wu, much loved in the fashion world but otherwise not well known, the gathered-skirt gown was surprising for its reserve given Michelle Obama's love of jewel tones and sleek silhouettes. Yet it was unconventional, too, exposing her much-remarked-upon, well-toned arms.

The gown's slight train swirled pleasingly and her shoulder-sweeping earrings picked up the gown's sparkle as she and President Barack Obama danced the evening's first dance at the Neighborhood Ball at Washington's Convention Center.

"First of all, how good-looking is my wife?" the president asked a cheering crowd.

The gown will be donated to the Smithsonian, according to tradition, the first lady's spokeswoman said.

Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, wore a red strapless gown.

Obama wore a white bow tie with a single-vent, notch-collar tuxedo and an American flag pinned to its lapel.

The fashion industry has anxiously looked to the election of Obama for months, embracing his wife as an emblem and ambassador of modern style, who wears clothes from young designers as well as mainstream American retailers.

Earlier in the day, Michelle Obama won applause from style-watchers for the sparkling yellow sheath dress with matching coat by Cuban-born American designer Isabel Toledo that she wore to the swearing-in and parade.

The first lady's selection of Wu, who has only shown a collection since 2006, and Toledo, who had a short stint at Anne Klein but is considered relatively avant-garde, demonstrates one of the reasons she has fascinated the fashion world.

"Her support means so much to designers who can't afford to advertise," said Nicole Phelps, executive editor at Style.com.

Wu, who according to his Web site is just 26, said he sewed the dress himself as late as December. He said he sent sketches to Obama at the suggestion of Ikram Goldman, who owns the Ikram boutique in Chicago where Michelle Obama has been known to shop.

He did not know she had selected the dress until she appeared in it, he said.

"It's soft, feminine, but powerful; I wanted to convey all that in a dress," he said. "I wanted it to look like a sign of hope."

President Barack Obama, left, and first lady Michelle Obama arrive at the Western Ball in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2009.

AP

Toledo had much the same message with her lemongrass-colored day ensemble.

"I didn't want a traditional blue or red," she said. "That color has sunshine in it. I fell in love with it. So did she."

At the same time, the first lady chose to support non-mainstream designers, she also selected gloves for the daytime ceremonies from catalog and mall retailer J. Crew - a typical and admired high-low mix.

"What's so powerful about Michelle Obama is we all see ourselves in her," said red-carpet and magazine stylist Mary Alice Stephenson. "She's a modern woman who is fashionable and even flamboyant in her style and she is still taken seriously."

Her ball look also captured her ability to give a nod to tradition at the same time she breaks first lady rules.

Both Jacqueline Kennedy and Nancy Reagan wore white to inaugural balls, said Phelps. But she is the first to expose her arms since Regan did.

The Obama girls also looked proper on the podium during the day, but still looked like little girls.

Malia, 10, wore a double-breasted periwinkle-blue coat with a blue-ribbon bow at the waist, and Sasha, 7, had on a pink coat with orange scarf and satin belt. Their coats were from Crewcuts by J. Crew.

"What I recognized more than anything from our new first lady and Hillary (Rodham Clinton) and everyone else is that everyone was fresh," said fashion designer Kai Milla, wife of Stevie Wonder and an invited guest to the swearing-in ceremony.

And style-watchers expect much more of the same.

"She's off to an auspicious start," said Hamish Bowles, Vogue magazine's European editor-at-large who curated the Metropolitan Museum Costume Institute exhibit on Jackie Kennedy in 2001, speaking of her day look.

"Mrs. Obama's choice today was appropriate, dignified and elegant, but it also had a considerable element of fashion panache," he added. "She's finding great American talent."

## LIKE

*From Page 18*

in Tuesday from Washington and elsewhere, documenting the day.)

YouTube partnered with C-SPAN to gather inaugural addresses from presidencies past. One of YouTube's stars, Obama Girl, streamed her take on the events live on Stickam.com.

MSNBC.com created a video explorer to let users search transcripts of the past 18 inaugural speeches, matching words with the corresponding video. MSNBC.com and CNN.com both touted Microsoft's "photosynth" technology, a 3-D panorama of the inauguration.

"CBS Evening News" anchor Katie Couric planned to host an hourlong webcast on Tuesday evening following the network's prime-time special.

A digital transition was also evident at the official site of the president. At noon EST, WhiteHouse.gov unveiled a new design.

It announced: "Change has come to WhiteHouse.gov."


*Message of Appreciation in Memory of*

Dominador Mercado Romo

*Words cannot express our true feeling of appreciation to all who have reached out to us in any way.*

*We are forever grateful to the doctors & nurses for their medical intervention at CHC and most especially the staff of the ICU Ward, for their compassionate and quality care; to the priests for thier spiritual intervention; and to the Techa, Mrs. Gloria & Terry for leading the rosary every night; to Father Charlie Saint Jude, Bencam Funeral and the clergy concelebrants at the Mass of the Christian Burial; St. Jude Choir; and to all who came to the wake, especially those present at the mass, we are indeed humbled by your presence.*

*Lastly, to all families and friends who unselfishly offered their assistance, condolences and prayers, we are deeply touched.*

*Thank You all and may God continue to bless you.*

***Magdalena Romo, Children and Families***



*In Celebration of His New Life*

**Gregorio Villagomez De Leon Guerrero**

**Fondly known as "Lo" or "Lo Apa"**

**July 14, 1951 – January 18, 2009**

***In his new life, he now joins:***

**Wife:** †Erlinda Yatco Deleon Guerrero
**Parents:** †Antonio Reyes De Leon Guerrero (Apa)
†Maria Villagomez De Leon Guerrero (Lafet)

***His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:***

**Children & Grandchildren:**
Mary Antonette DLG. & Larry Valderrama (Sylvestre)
Gregory P. De Leon Guerrero (Bennett, Gregory Jr. & Fran'ko)
JoyAnn P. De Leon Guerrero (Jaden, Mya) and their mother Jacinta D. Palacios
Vanerrie DLG. & Jerson Villamor
Venetia Marie
Verna Liza
Vanessa Victoria
Jerome De Leon Guerrero

**Brothers & Sisters:**
Pedro V. & Jeannette M. De Leon Guerrero (Michael, Julie & Jason)
Edith DLG. & Joaquin Q. Cruz
Angie V. De Leon Guerrero
Celina DLG. & Matias A. Chargualaf (Carol, Cathy & Dennis)
JM. & Rieko A. De Leon Guerrero (James)
Antonio V. & Alice B. De Leon Guerrero – (Polly & Floyd, Anthony & Alfreda (AJ), Dean and Devin)
Ramon V. & Sophia C. De Leon Guerrero – (Clarice & Jonathan (Ross Anthony), Jesse Ray and Francis)
Margarita DLG. & Ricardo Camacho (Rosie & José (Antone, Malia), Raelene & Sandy, Richard and Rico)

Lo is also survived by numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and relatives.

Daily mass is being offered every morning at 6:00am and the nightly Holy Rosary at 7:00pm at the Mount Carmel Cathedral until January 25, 2009. On January 26, 2009, his remains will be escorted from the Borja Funeral Home to the Mount Carmel Cathedral at 7:30am. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:30am followed by the interment services at the Mount Carmel Cemetery in Chalan Kanoa.

**Thank you for your thoughts and prayers from the children, grandchildren and family.**

# Obamas dance to 'At Last'

By LISA TOLIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—"At Last" may have been just what President Barack Obama and his wife Michelle were thinking Tuesday night as they glided through their first inaugural dance to the Etta James classic.

The Obamas were the star attraction at the 10 inaugural celebrations they attended into the early hours of Wednesday. The celebrations marked the end of a long day of formal inaugural events and the two-year campaign that put them in the White House.

The president pulled his wife close and they danced a slow, dignified two-step while, offstage, Beyonce sang. The president spun first lady Michelle Obama once in a half-turn.

Obama cut loose in a faster groove a few minutes later, as Shakira, Mary J. Blige, Faith Hill and Mariah Carey sang along with Stevie Wonder to his "Signed, Sealed, Delivered." The song was played at nearly all of Obama's rallies throughout the campaign.

"You could tell that's a black president from the way he was moving," comedian Jamie Foxx joked following the dance.

The president wore white tie, while Michelle shimmered in a white, one-shouldered, floor-length gown. It was embellished from top to bottom with white floral details and made by 26-year-old New York designer Jason Wu.

"First of all, how good looking is my wife?" Obama asked the crowd of celebrities and supporters.

At the Obama Home States ball, the president pulled the first lady much closer than he did on their first dance. At one point, he wrapped both arms around her waist and locked his fingers together at the small of her back.

"Hello, everybody. Aloha. What's going on?" Obama said in the dialects of the Hawaii and Illinois contingents, saying they reflected his roots. "So many of you got involved not just in our campaign but in our lives."

Obama and Vice President Joe Biden each saluted the nation's military men and women at the Commander in Chief Ball via satellite. Biden said he wasn't looking forward to his moment in the spotlight - the dancing, that is.

"The thing that frightens me the most (is) I'm going to have to stand in that circle and dance in a minute." At that, he laughed and did a quick sign of the cross.

The Obamas were more enthusiastic, splitting up to dance with Marine Sgt. Elidio Guillen of Madera, Calif.—who was shorter than dance partner Michelle—and Army Sgt. Margaret H. Herrera of San Antonio, Texas, who cried in the president's arms.

Despite the formal attire and celebrity entertainment, balls aren't overly fancy affairs. Lines often are long to get in, go to the bathroom or check your coat, and the food is heavy on vegetables with dip and cheese cubes.

In a sign, perhaps, of the tough economic times, guests who already paid anywhere from $75 for a ticket to thousands more for a package deal had to buy their own drinks served in small plastic cups. Beer went for $6, cocktails for $9 and champagne for $12.

People were standing in line outside Union Station to get into the Eastern States Ball an hour and a half after it started. Because of very limited seating at the Western ball, a number of attendees in long gowns and fancy dress plopped cross-legged on the floor.

"This is what happens in a down economy. No chairs, no highboys—it's the floor and plastic cups," commented ballgoer Brig Lawson, 38, of Las Vegas.

Director Ron Howard said he sympathized with the long day Obama was having.

"I feel bad for him," Howard said in an interview with The Associated Press at the Western Ball. "He's had a long day and now he has to do seven dances. This has got to be the grueling part for the first family."

At the Obama Home States ball, the dance floor was dominated by two little girls who skipped and twirled in matching red dresses while the grown-ups stood still, crowded around the stage waiting for Obama to appear.

Singer Sheryl Crow, doing a sound check for the Midwestern Ball, said she was homesick.

"I have not seen my child in four days. I'm miserable," she told her band between songs.

But there was still plenty of fun to be had at the official balls and dozens of other parties around Washington.

Crow was greeted by a cheering crowd later for her appropriate hit, "A Change Would Do You Good." When hip-hop star Wyclef Jean asked the men at the Mid-Atlantic Ball to pull off their tuxedo jackets and swing them in the air to show their support for Barack Obama, thousands did.

At the Youth Ball, Kid Rock belted out songs as well-dressed 20-somethings mingled about. One of them walked up to a bartender, gave him a high five and said, "Barack Obama is president!"

The Obamas, following Kid Rock and Kanye West, got the real rock-star reception and launched into something of an awkward dance, laughing as they swayed. When they were done, the president grabbed a mic and said, "That's what's called old school."

At the Midwestern Ball, he joked that it was time to "dance with the one who brung me, who does everything that I do except backwards and in heels."

And though the mood was celebratory, the reality that the country remains at war hung over the festivities at the Commander in Chief ball and a separate Heroes Red White & Blue Ball.

"Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers today, every day, forever," Obama told troops at the Commander in Chief ball. "Tonight, we celebrate. Tomorrow, the work begins. ... Together, I am confident we will write the next great chapter in America's story."

AP

President Barack Obama gets caught in first lady Michelle Obama's dress train as they dance at the Commander in Chief Ball at the National Building Museum in Washington, Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2009.

## Obama's inauguration available everywhere on TV

By DAVID BAUDER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

**NEW YORK** (AP)—It was hard to miss the moment on television when Barack Obama lifted his right hand to take the oath of office as the nation's 44th president.

The transfer of power was everywhere you'd expect, on the CNNs and ABCs of the TV world. But ESPN also interrupted its sports highlights to show it. MTV cut away from self-obsessed "Real World" roommates. Business networks CNBC, Bloomberg and Fox telecast it, although the stock market tickers stayed on the screen. BET and TV One celebrated the arrival of a black president, and BBC America took its focus off Britain.

Not since the September 2001 terrorist attacks have so many television networks shown such a unity of purpose, this time for a moment of hope.

The networks bore witness both to a history-making event and a uniquely American ritual, with coverage that was most effective when anchors and commentators faded to the background.

There were spectacular pictures: the sweep of a huge crowd cheering as if at some massive sporting event; the motorcade taking the Obamas and Bushes to the Capitol; Michelle Obama handing a gift to Laura Bush; and former presidents greeting one another before taking their seats.

"What a moment for the man, what a moment for the country," ABC's Charles Gibson said after Obama assumed the presidency.

On NBC, Lester Holt noted simply how many people were singing the National Anthem, when that is not always the case.

CNN analyst David Gergen seemed to nail the day's mood early. "It's almost like Mardi Gras in January," he said, "with a much more serious purpose."

The networks faltered when they let giddiness get the best of them. Gibson talked about getting chills, and not because of the weather.

"There's just something about this day," he said. "The buildings are a little brighter."

Anderson Cooper should wince at a playback of his attempt at music criticism: "There are three first ladies on this stage," he said. "Aretha Franklin is the first lady of soul." (Actually, since he overlooked Rosalynn Carter, Barbara Bush and Hillary Clinton, his count should have been six.)

Like an election night, news networks hauled out some expensive tricks, such as Fox News' impressive graphic map of Washington used to place the events. CNN contracted for a satellite to take a shot of Washington from space, and asked its viewers to send in pictures of the exact moment Obama took the oath of office.

With a small search of its archives, NBC could have had a real memorable moment: Andrea Mitchell, reporting among the dignitaries on the reviewing stand, mentioned how she interviewed young Sen. Barack Obama there four years earlier during the Bush inauguration. It would have been priceless to see a clip of that interview.

While the networks all assigned reporters to cover a crowd estimated at more than 1 million people, they were underused. The ordinary Americans who stood in the cold to witness history were a bigger part of the story than was reflected, as was evident by the rock starlike cheers that rang out during the Obamas walk down Pennsylvania Avenue.

NBC's Norah O'Donnell and CNN's Dana Bash contributed quick, clear-eyed reporting Tuesday afternoon when Sen. Edward Kennedy had to be taken from a luncheon in a medical emergency. Kennedy, ill with a brain tumor, suffered an apparent seizure and was taken in for evaluation. There was no immediate word from medical personnel on his condition, although fellow senators said he remained conscious as he was taken for further evaluation.

Obama's inaugural address largely drew a thumbs-up from the TV reporters covering it. Fox's News Channel's Brit Hume called it a "marvelously eloquent speech delivered in the characteristically flawless way by the new president." CBS historian Doug Brinkley said it was a "very beautifully written speech."

Many commentators noted, though, the undercurrent of criticism at outgoing President George Bush that may have undercut the polite way the two men dealt with each other.

"I suspect that if President Bush had read the speech before they had that ride to the Capitol, it may not have been as warm," said NBC's Tom Brokaw.

On MSNBC, Peggy Noonan noted the visible warmth between the two families, epitomized by Michelle Obama's gift to her predecessor (a journal and pen for writing her memoirs). Yet it was undercut by a crowd singing "na na hey hey goodbye" as the Bushes helicopter took off.

MSNBC's Keith Olbermann, who the night before had urged Obama to prosecute Bush for war crimes, couldn't hide his glee at the moment.

"We have liftoff ... and to all a good night," he said.

Milano

# Alyssa Milano granted restraining order

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Alyssa Milano has received a restraining order against a man she says has repeatedly tried to contact her and showed up at her home unannounced.

Records show a judge in Ventura County granted Milano a three-year restraining order on Dec. 23 against Jeff Turner, who lives in Northern California. Milano wrote in court documents that Turner had hiked miles to try to meet her and repeatedly called to get access to an event where she was appearing.

Milano, who recently announced her engagement to Hollywood agent David Bugliari, is best known for her roles on television series such as "Who's the Boss?" "Charmed" and a recurring role on "My Name is Earl."

# Man pleads not guilty to Hudson family killings

**CHICAGO** (AP)—Jennifer Hudson's brother-in-law pleaded not guilty Tuesday to charges he shot to death the Oscar-winning actress's mother and brother and the 7-year-old son of his estranged wife.

William Balfour, 27, entered not guilty pleas to first-degree murder and home invasion charges after nodding to members of his family gathered in the last of three Cook County courtrooms he appeared in Tuesday.

Balfour is married to Jennifer Hudson's sister, Julia Hudson. He is charged in the October deaths of the sisters' mother, Darnell Donerson, their brother, Jason Hudson, and Julia Hudson's 7-year-old son, Julian King.

Prosecutors allege Balfour shot the three in a jealous rage because he was upset Julia Hudson had been dating another man.

Balfour

Prosecutors first asked that the case be reassigned to another judge, though they did not give a reason. Presiding Judge Paul P. Biebel Jr. then reassigned the case and Balfour entered his plea in the final courtroom.

Defense attorney Joshua Kutnick said he plans to ask at Balfour's next court appearance, set for Jan. 27, that Balfour be moved from a state prison in Joliet to Cook County Jail to make it easier to meet with him.

The bodies of Donerson and Jason Hudson were discovered Oct. 24 at the family's South Side home. King's body was found three days later in an SUV on the city's West Side.

Balfour was arrested shortly after the killings and held in Chicago police custody for 48 hours - the longest a person can be held without charges - before his transfer to state custody on what authorities said was a parole violation. He was charged with murder last month.

A publicist for Jennifer Hudson declined to comment Tuesday. She was a finalist in the 2004 season of "American Idol" and won her Oscar in 2007 for her supporting role in "Dreamgirls."

The 27-year-old singer and actress released her self-titled debut album in the fall but hasn't made public appearances since the killings.

AP

Director Christopher Nolan accepts the best supporting actor award awarded to Heath Ledger for his role in "The Dark Knight " at the 14th Annual Critics' Choice Awards on Thursday Jan. 8, 2009 in Santa Monica, Calif. Ledger died of an accidental drug overdose in January 2007.

# Attorney: Ledger drug tape case over

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—The legal battle over a video that purportedly shows Heath Ledger doing drugs two years before his death has ended, an attorney said Tuesday.

Neville Johnson, an attorney for the former People magazine freelancer who briefly appears on the tape and later sued to get it destroyed, did not disclose terms of the arrangement. He would only say, "The matter has been resolved."

Johnson filed the lawsuit in April on behalf of the reporter, identified only as Jane Doe.

An attorney for Splash News & Picture Agency, the paparazzi firm that surreptitiously shot Ledger in the freelancer's hotel room in 2006, said Tuesday he could not comment.

The video surfaced after Ledger's death last January. "Entertainment Tonight" had plans to air part of the footage and showed a teaser, but backed off after receiving pressure from stars and publicists. The full video eventually surfaced on the Internet, but became increasingly difficult to find over time. On it, Ledger is heard talking about his wife and daughter and prior drug use.

Splash had contended throughout the case that the reporter did not have a valid claim since her face in the tape was blurred. They argued that only Ledger could claim wrongdoing, and his privacy rights died with him. A judge initially agreed with the argument, but later restored many of the suit's allegations.

# Duffy, Coldplay dominate Brit Awards nominations

Welsh singer and songwriter Duffy arrives at the Cannes festival palace, to take part in the NRJ awards ceremony, Saturday, Jan. 17, 2009, in Cannes, southern France. AP

**LONDON** (AP)—Soul singer Duffy and Coldplay dominate the nominations for Britain's prestigious music awards.

Coldplay's first album in three years, "Viva La Vida" and Duffy's "Rockferry" are both nominated for the title of best British album at the Brit Awards.

Coldplay will also compete with Elbow, Girls Aloud, Radiohead and revived boyband Take That for the title of best British Group.

Kayne West, Beyonce and Kings of Leon are nominated for the international categories.

The Brit Awards are the British equivalent of the Grammys and the nominations were announced Tuesday. The winners will be announced in London on Feb. 18.

Most winners are selected by a vote of over 1,000 industry members and include representatives from record companies, retailers and disc jockeys.

# Coroner says Abdul fan died from overdose

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—A coroner in Los Angeles has found that an "American Idol" hopeful found dead outside Paula Abdul's home committed suicide with prescription drugs. Assistant Chief of Coroner Ed Winter says Paula Goodspeed died in November after of a prescription drug overdose. The report didn't specify which drugs.

Officials had suspected suicide, but the coroner's office had been waiting on toxicology tests. Winter said Goodspeed did not leave a note.

Goodspeed was panned for her "Proud Mary" performance at a season five audition. She said she was a huge fan of Abdul and created life-size paintings of her. Abdul has recently backed off criticism of "Idol" producers, who she had claimed put Goodspeed on the air despite warnings that she was obsessed.

Abdul

# Middle child learns early how to be self-sufficient

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** Like "Middle Child in Hackensack, N.J." (Nov. 4), I am a middle child. I have an older brother and a younger sister, and I, too, felt my siblings were favored.

When I was younger, it seemed I was blamed for everything and got nothing from my parents. I am 20 now, and realize that my parents actually gave me a lot.

Because they never spent the money on me that they did on my siblings, I have worked since I was 16 to get what I want, and I've learned how to manage my money. I understand sharing better than they do because I've always had to let my little sister use and borrow my things. I have also learned to accept that nothing comes without hard work, and that the best of everything isn't always the most expensive.

"Middle Child" is not alone. I believe many parents with three kids act this way, although not consciously. Don't resent your family members for this because they do love and care about you. Learn what you can from it. Those lessons will help you more in the long run than being spoiled now will.

HAPPY IN THE MIDDLE

**DEAR HAPPY: You are a thoughtful, wise and mature 20-year-old, and I thank you for your letter. I advised "Middle Child" that she should also turn her frustration into an effort to excel at something—to find validation from within her family and outside it. Read on for comments from other middle children:**

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY**: Some parents do favor one child over another, but most try hard not to let it affect how they treat their children. That girl's parents may not realize they are acting differently. I think she should have a non-confrontational private talk with her parents and express her feelings to them. They may be shocked to hear she feels this way.

As a child, I often felt disregarded. This was news to my parents, and we all learned to readjust how we dealt with each other. That was almost 30 years ago, and it made a huge difference.

SIBLING IN LAUREL, MD.

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY**: I am a middle child. Both my siblings were treated better by my mother than I was. Dad tried to make up some of the difference, and it is no surprise that I am closer to him than either of my siblings.

The girl in Hackensack should speak to her school counselor or her religious adviser. Because of my situation I now have a very close relationship with a woman my mother's age, and she has filled in a lot of the gaps left by my mom. Confiding in a close relative can also be a comfort.

Finding someone to talk to makes it a lot easier to get through until you are out on your own. My relationship with my friends has kept me going. And time does help. I'm proof.

MIDWEST SURVIVOR

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY**: I disagree with some of your advice to "Middle Child." Sadly, it's not uncommon for parents to get so wrapped up in daily life that they fail to meet their children's emotional needs. Too many young girls already believe that they must constantly earn the approval of others in order to succeed, and it can easily become a recipe for lifelong low self-esteem. "Middle Child" needs to learn some self-validation skills and to understand that she already has value as a worthwhile human being because of who she is right now.

WALKED THAT ROAD

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY**: Here's my theory about middle children. Visualize a sandwich. The outer layers are two slices of simple bread, and the inner layer is what gives flavor to the sandwich. Without the filling, the sandwich would be boring and tasteless. YOU are the "spice" that makes life fun and yummy. I wouldn't give up my middle spot in the family for anything!

LAURA IN SAN LUIS OBISPO

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)*

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

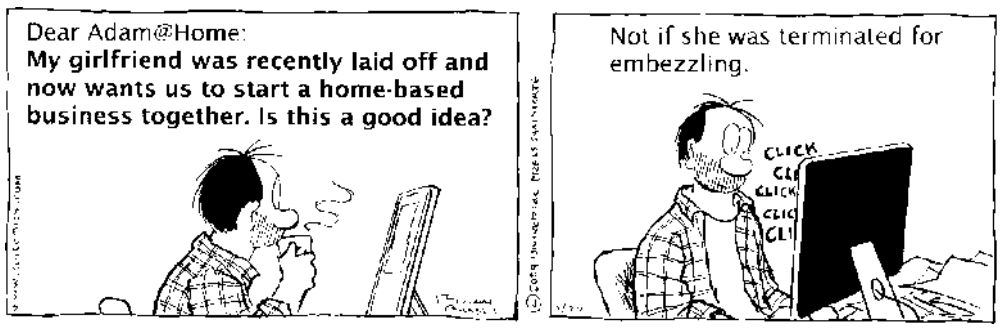
CALVIN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ON THE SCHOOL BUS! GET OVER HERE!
OUR HERO BLASTS OFF WITH HIS EMERGENCY JET PACK! ANOTHER DARING ESCAPE FOR THE INTREPID SPACEMAN SPIFF!
ZOUNDS! THE ZOGWARGS ARE ON ROCKET SCOOTERS! SPIFF FIRES HIS DEATH RAY BLASTER!
IT'S YOUR OWN GRAVE YOU'RE DIGGING, BUSTER!

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


Dear Adam@Home:
My girlfriend was recently laid off and now wants us to start a home-based business together. Is this a good idea?
Not if she was terminated for embezzling.
CLICK

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I READ SOMEWHERE THAT A BAG OF THEATER POPCORN IS EQUAL IN FAT TO THIRTEEN STRIPS OF BACON.
YEAH. SO...?
WHAT "HEALTHY" SNACKS DO YOU SELL?
HOW'S OUR NEW BACON DOZEN SNACKER PACK SOUND?
MMM! COULD I GET SOME FAKE BUTTER ON THAT?

## CROSSWORD

*By Eugene Sheffer*

**ACROSS**
1 Ming of the NBA
4 Census statistics
8 Envelope part
12 Ostrich's cousin
13 Pleasing
14 Queue
15 Don't move
17 Prayer ending
18 Piratic potation
19 Wilder drama
21 — council ("Survivor" event)
24 Snapshot
25 Computer woe
26 Torched
28 Extemporizes
32 Wan
34 Luau side dish
36 Urban disturbance
37 Fix a knot
39 Antiquated
41 "CSI" evidence
42 Water barrier
44 Carell's "The 40 Year Old Virgin" co-star
46 Summertime cooler
50 Clay alias
51 Wise guys?
52 Ill-defined time
56 Andy's pal
57 Exceptional
58 — polloi
59 Netting
60 — and terminer
61 Cowpoke's nickname

**DOWN**
1 "Absolutely"
2 Parisian pal
3 Unreservedly
4 Critter
5 Showbiz job
6 Reverberate
7 Arrangement
8 Freight train component
9 Wheels of fortune?
10 From square one
11 Teller's cohort
16 Bathroom fixture
20 "6 Rms — Vu"
21 Ski-lift transport
22 Stratagem
23 Back talk
27 As well
29 Cinderella's curfew
30 Corn recipe
31 Constellation part
33 Leo Rosten's tongue
35 Sort
38 Cause corrosion
40 Casino employee
43 Subway
45 Inventor Whitney
46 Mosque VIP
47 Arrived
48 Ids' counterparts
49 Vacationing
53 Rage
54 Break ground?
55 Ducats

Solution time: 25 mins.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | O | B | | P | E | A | S | | D | A | D | A |
| A | P | E | | E | T | N | A | | A | V | E | F |
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| I | S | A | A | C | | | G | A | L | | | |
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| F | O | R | T | P | E | C | K | | A | U | R | A |
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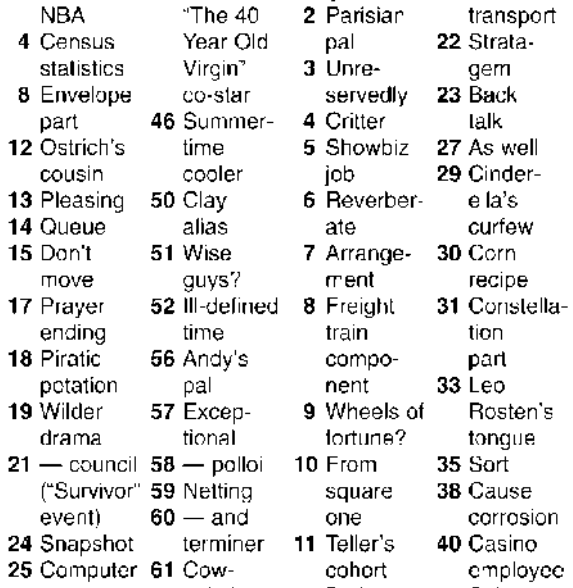
Yesterday's answer 1-22



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute; touch-tone/rotary phones. (18 or y.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY**: Robyn Richards, 22; Willa Ford, 28; Diane Lane, 44; Linda Blair, 50

**Happy Birthday**: There is a lot to be grateful for and even more to consider regarding your future. This is not the time sit back and see what unfolds. Be aggressive and decisive and take control of your life. It's forward motion that will win you the help, respect and confidence of the people you care about most. Your numbers are 2, 18, 20, 24, 33, 38, 42

**ARIES** (*March 21-April 19*): Take a closer look at a potential partnership. If what's being offered doesn't complement and compensate you fairly, go it alone. Past experience should caution you. ✪✪✪✪

**TAURUS** (*April 20-May 20*): Just because someone doesn't want to do things your way doesn't mean you should follow his or her plans. If you think you have a better way, go for it. An unusual money deal will be profitable. ✪✪✪

**GEMINI** (*May 21-June 20*): Someone from your past will make a difference in your life now. You will discover new ways of doing things by watching closely how someone else handles situations. A partnership may have some kinks to work out. ✪✪✪

**CANCER** (*June 21-July 22*): You can make some extra money with a little sideline business of your own. There is a deal to seal if you move fast. A love relationship will take a unique twist, leading to greater security. ✪✪✪

**LEO** (*July 23-Aug. 22*): If you let your feelings take over you may make a mistake you'll regret. Making unreal promises or overspending will be your downfall. You will experience delays and mishaps while traveling, so stay put if possible. ✪✪✪

**VIRGO** (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): The fewer people you let know your plans, the easier it will be for you to complete them. Don't be surprised if someone you know well makes last-minute changes that leave you in limbo. Be prepared to act fast and make any compensation required to continue. ✪✪

**LIBRA** (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Avoid trouble or anyone who is causing you grief. There will be opportunity to have some fun but only if you get out with positive people who will motivate you to walk away from any negativity in your life. ✪✪✪✪

**SCORPIO** (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Be polite but don't let what everyone else is suggesting lead you to lose sight of your goals. You have a game plan and, although it may take a little longer, it's what works for you. Love can take a positive turn. ✪✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't be discouraged by someone who doesn't have the vision you do. Rely on your experience, ideas and imagination and you will come up with ideas that will utilize your skills and strengths and lead to success. ✪✪✪

**CAPRICORN** (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): There are too many factors you will not be aware of to make a good decision regarding money, health or a legal concern. Ask questions but, if you don't get answers, keep digging. Time is on your side. ✪✪✪

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**AQUARIUS** (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Take a unique approach to everything you do today and you will get the interest and support you need to move forward. Make the adjustment that will improve your life and the relationships you have with others. ✪✪✪✪

**PISCES** (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Emotional issues are likely to surface. Be prepared to act fast but fairly. A partnership can help to ease your stress and add to your progress if you handle the initial stages of your agreement properly. ✪✪

**Birthday Baby**: You are an open book, sharing your thoughts and ideas. You are active, aggressive and intuitive. You are able to go it alone but everyone wants to be on your team.

*Eugenia's Web sites:* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

## SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 4 | 1 | | | 2 | | | |
| 6 | | | | | 7 | 8 | | |
| | | | | | 3 | 5 | 4 | |
| | | | | | | 6 | 7 | |
| | 5 | | | | | | 8 | |
| | 2 | 8 | | | | | | |
| | 3 | 2 | 9 | | | | | |
| | | 4 | 5 | | | | | 9 |
| | | | 8 | | | 1 | 3 | |

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/22

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 2 |
| 7 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 6 |
| 1 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 7 |
| 3 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 5 |
| 5 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 9 |
| 4 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 3 |
| 8 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 4 |
| 2 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 1 |
| 6 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 8 |

Difficulty Level ★★★

## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The circled letters spell the Wonderword.

**TEACHERS** Solution: 8 letters

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | L | E | M | E | N | T | A | R | Y | E | A | R | S | C |
| S | T | R | A | X | L | R | E | T | S | E | M | E | S | I |
| P | R | I | V | A | T | E | X | T | R | C | N | S | T | L |
| C | A | Y | R | M | U | F | A | O | B | O | A | R | D | B |
| E | I | A | Z | O | G | I | T | R | I | U | P | D | T | U |
| R | N | S | I | O | V | N | M | G | N | N | P | A | W | P |
| T | T | S | U | R | E | A | I | S | S | T | L | E | R | R |
| I | E | E | Q | M | R | L | F | T | P | K | E | R | I | O |
| H | B | S | A | K | E | G | O | R | E | S | O | O | I | J |
| I | A | T | S | R | P | R | D | O | L | E | H | O | E | E |
| C | H | C | S | A | I | A | C | P | L | C | M | O | B | C |
| A | P | E | H | E | P | D | P | S | T | E | L | L | W | T |
| T | L | N | S | A | T | E | A | E | R | A | M | A | R | D |
| E | A | F | A | I | L | S | P | A | R | E | N | T | S | T |
| S | N | E | P | S | W | K | R | O | W | E | M | O | H | S |

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Alphabet, Apple, Area, Arts, Board, Books, Certificate, Chalk, Choir, Class, Count, Desk, Drama, Elementary, Essay, Exam, Fail, Favorite, Final, Grade, Homework, Learn, Marks, Math, Meeting, Mentor, Paper, Parents, Pass, Pens, Private, Project, Public, Quiz, Read, Religion, Room, Semester, Show, Spell, Sports, Stories, Talk, Tell, Test, Text, Train, Wise, Write, Years

**Yesterday's Answer: Astronaut**

WONDERWORD offers the "Book of Goodness" for $5.95 each (US Dollars) plus postage. Universal Press Syndicate, Strategic Initiatives, Attn: Bookstore, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, MO 64111-7701. Make check payable to WONDERWORD. Mail with this address.

# CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution:
Poison ivy

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## WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

POISE
IV

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**Find today's solution in this section**

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attoney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Bank of Guam

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, | ) | CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0073 |
| vs. | ) | |
| VALENTINE S. CABRERA, Defendant. | ) | AMENDED SUMMONS |

**TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT VALENTINE CABRERA**

**YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO APPEAR** by the 21st day after the fourth date of publication of this AMENDED SUMMONS and defend the above entitled action in the CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, at the Office of Clerk of Court, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Ilmwal Aweewe, House of Justice, Susuper Village, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950-0307; and answer the complaint of the plaintiff Bank of Guam, and serve a copy of your answer upon **Robert Tenorio Torres**, attorney for Plaintiff Bank of Guam, at **Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya), P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950**; and in case of failure to do so, judgement will be rendered against you according to the demand of the COMPLAINT, which has been filed with the Clerk of Court.

So **ORDERED** this 13th day of January 2009.

/s/ Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

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The Saipan Tribune website averages 6, 994,897 hits and 204, 298 visits per month. That's an average of 225,641 hits and 6590 visits per day (average between Aug.-Oct. 2008).

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|---|---|
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| • 5-Liner | $35 |
| • 3-Liner with picture | $45 |
| • 5-Liner with picture | $55 |

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**Classified Ads**

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

### CANCELLATION

**Classified Ads**

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

### REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

### CHECK YOUR ADS

*Saipan Tribune* will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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# Federer joins Serbian trio in 3rd round

**MELBOURNE, Australia** (AP)— Roger Federer's quest for a record 14th major got more compelling Wednesday when he set up a third-round match with Marat Safin at the Australian Open.

Second-ranked Federer dominated in a 6-2, 6-3, 6-1 victory over No. 118 Evgeny Korolev, needing just 86 minutes to move one step closer to equaling Pete Sampras' record for Grand Slam singles titles.

With Swiss flags scattered around Rod Laver Arena, Federer gave notice he was on top of his game with back-to-back aces in the first game.

Safin, who beat Federer in the semifinals here en route to winning the 2005 championship, beat Guillermo Garcia-Lopez of Spain 7-5, 6-2, 6-2.

"I'm happy to be playing Marat, we have fought some battles," Federer said. "We had the epic in 2005."

The mercurial Russian, who will turn 29 next week, saved a match point and won 9-7 in the fifth set of his semifinal against Federer four years ago. He is one of only two men who've beaten Federer in the last five Australian Open tournaments.

The other, defending champion Novak Djokovic, remained on course for a semifinal rematch with Federer when he beat Frenchman Jeremy Chardy 7-5, 6-1, 6-3.

Chardy matched the third-ranked Djokovic shot for shot before wilting while trying to force a tiebreaker in the first set.

The 21-year-old Djokovic was dominating on serve, faltering only when he was broken at love while serving for the match.

But he broke right back, finishing it off when Chardy netted a forehand on match point.

AP

Switzerland's Roger Federer returns to Russia's Evgeny Korolev during their Men's Singles match at the Australian Open Tennis Championship in Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2009.

"I'm playing better and better which is very encouraging fact for me," Djokovic said. "I really stepped it up."

The 21-year-old Serb next faces Bosnian-born Amer Delic, of Jacksonville, Florida.

Delic, who got a spot in the draw as a lucky loser from qualifying when other players withdrew, rallied from two sets down to beat No. 28 Paul-Henri Mathieu of France 1-6, 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (3), 9-7.

Delic beat American Taylor Dent in the first round, but his supporters attracted criticism from Dent's father Phil, a former Australian Davis Cup player, who complained about unruly behavior from flag-waving Bosnian fans.

Delic anticipated an emotion-charged environment, saying he'd appeal for calm among his supporters, and expected Djokovic would do the same.

Djokovic was ready for a tough reception on court.

"I don't want underestimate anybody. Delic deserves to be in the third round," he said. "If he came there, of course, he has a lot of qualities. He's a big server. We played in Wimbledon in 2007 and we had a really close match, so I expect the same in this third round."

Two of Djokovic's fellow Serbs advanced as expected on the women's side.

Fifth-seeded Ana Ivanovic beat Italian Alberta Brianti 6-3, 6-2 and top-ranked Jelena Jankovic advanced 6-4, 7-5 over Kirsten Flipkens of Belgium.

Jankovic, the only member of the top Serbian trio yet to win a major, needed a medical time out for treatment on her right foot in the first set and was broken three times in a tougher-than-expected 1-hour, 46-minute match.

Ivanovic lost the last Australian Open final to Maria Sharapova, then won her first Grand Slam title at the French Open and gained the No. 1 ranking.

Now seeded fifth, she is drawing inspiration from her last run here. Sharapova is not defending the title because of a shoulder injury.

"I was in this situation before French Open last year, coming into the tournament as pretty serious finalist," she said. "That experience will help me a lot to approach this Australian Open."

Dictating play and ripping winners into the corners, Ivanovic repeatedly took advantage of Brianti's weak serve. The 28-year-old Italian held serve only three times.

No. 169-ranked Brianti needed treatment for her lower back and took a medical timeout after getting broken to fall behind 3-0 in the second set.

She returned to break Ivanovic's serve and held to pull back to 3-2, but lost the next three games. Ivanovic, pushing the limits with her shots, had the same number of winners as unforced errors (26).

She won 17 of her 27 net approaches, a sign she's growing in confidence moving forward.

"I improved a lot since last match. I was committing much more, coming to the net more often," she said, adding she still had plenty to improve.

"When you come against top players or high-ranked players, you automatically raise your level and your consistency. That's something that I can do."

No. 3 Dinara Safina overcame 44 unforced errors in a 6-7 (3), 6-3, 6-0 win over fellow Russian Ekaterina Makarova and will next play No. 25 Kaie Kanepi of Estonia.

Safina, younger sister of Safin, lost to a qualifier in the first round here last year, but went on to reach the French Open final, take the Olympic silver medal and make the U.S. Open semifinals.

No. 10 Nadia Petrova had a 6-3, 6-2 win over India's Sania Mirza. No. 26 Ai Sugiyama of Japan defeated Nathalie Dechy of France 1-6, 6-1, 6-3 and next faces Jankovic.

Also advancing were No. 7 Vera Zvonareva of Russia, No. 15 Alize Cornet of France and No. 19 Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia.

Among the men's seeded players advancing were No. 11 David Ferrer of Spain, No. 15 Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland, No. 19 Marin Cilic of Croatia, No. 20 Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic, and No. 21 Tommy Robredo of Spain.

In the doubles, second-ranked Bob and Mike Bryan opened with a 7-5, 6-3 win over Chile's Fernando Gonzalez and Mariano Hood of Argentina.

Serena and Venus Williams, the Beijing Olympics doubles gold medalists, had a 6-3, 6-1 win over Russian pair Svetlana Kuznetsova and Nadia Petrova.

# Mike Bibby leads Hawks over Bulls, 105-102

**CHICAGO** (AP)— Mike Bibby scored nine of his season-high 31 points in the final five minutes, and the Atlanta Hawks beat the Chicago Bulls 105-102 Tuesday to complete a three-game season sweep.

Solid throughout the night, Bibby came up big in the end to lift the Hawks to their second win in as many nights.

The Bulls were leading 94-93 after Derrick Rose drove for a layup, but Bibby buried a jumper over Joakim Noah to start a decisive 7-0 spurt that sent the Hawks to their second win in as many nights. Flip Murray then converted a layup on a two-on-one after Chicago's Luol Deng hit the side of the backboard on a drive, and Bibby finished it with a 3-pointer that made it 100-94 with just under four minutes left.

Bibby also came up with a key steal with 40 seconds left when he picked off a pass intended for Ben Gordon near midcourt, knocking him to the ground. The crowd booed the non-call and Bibby hit a jumper to make it 104-98, sending the Hawks to their first season sweep over the Bulls.

Zaza Pachulia scored a season-high 18 points for the Kings. Josh Smith added 17 points and 14 rebounds, and Joe Johnson scored 16 for the Hawks, who have struggled this month after enjoying their best December in 21 years. After winning 11 of 15 last month, Atlanta is 4-6 in January thanks in part to injuries up front.

With Al Horford missing his sixth straight game with a bone bruise in his right knee and Marvin Williams (concussion) sitting out his second in a row, the only healthy regular up front was Josh Smith. And although the Hawks took a beating on the boards against Chicago, getting outrebounded 48-34, they still managed to hand the Bulls their third straight loss.

Gordon led Chicago with 21 points, Nocioni added 15, and Luol Deng had 12 points and 10 rebounds. Kirk Hinrich and Derrick Rose scored 13 apiece, but 18 turnovers did in the Bulls on a night when they hung in even though Atlanta seemed ready to pull away several times.

The Bulls didn't flinch when the Hawks jumped out to a 17-4 lead, nor did they blink when Atlanta scored 14 in a row to go up 72-61 midway through the third quarter. They again put forth the effort that's been lacking most of the year, just as they did in losing the previous two to San Antonio and New York, but got nothing to show for it.

### Spurs 99, Pacers 81

At San Antonio, Tim Duncan scored 27 points and Manu Ginobili had 26 in San Antonio' win over Indiana.

Tony Parker added 13 points for San Antonio, which ended the first half of the season in the familiar position of first in the Southwest Division. The Spurs have won three straight and eight of their last 10.

Danny Granger had 17 points for the Pacers, who shot 37 percent from the field and scored their second-fewest points in a game this season. Indiana entered ranked third in the league in scoring.

Mike Dunleavy added 15 points for the Pacers.

### Nuggets 118, Kings 99

At Denver, Linas Kleiza scored 27 points and Chauncey Billups had 22 as Denver used strong second and third quarters to beat Sacramento.

J.R. Smith had 19 points and Nene 13 points and 12 rebounds for Denver, which outscored the Kings 71-44 in the middle frames.

Kevin Martin led Sacramento with 25 points and rookie Jason Thompson had 18 points and 11 rebounds for the Kings, who fell behind by 30 in the fourth quarter.

The Nuggets trailed by as many as 10 in the second quarter when Kleiza and Smith led the charge back. Kleiza had 11 points and Smith scored nine points during a 19-4 run that gave Denver a 43-38 lead.

### Jazz 112, Timberwolves 107

At Salt Lake City, Mehmet Okur scored 22 points and hit consecutive late 3-pointers to send Utah past Minnesota for its seventh straight home win.

Paul Millsap led Utah with 28 points and 15 rebounds and his dunk gave the Jazz a 97-89 lead midway through the fourth quarter.

The Wolves cut the lead the 97-96 on Randy Foye's 3-pointer.

Al Jefferson, who had 25 points and eight rebounds, missed a jump hook and Okur grabbed the rebound. He then made his consecutive 3s and added a free throw. Deron Williams, who had 17 points and 11 assists, made a jumper to expand the advantage to 106-97.

Ryan Gomes and Foye each had 19 points for Minnesota.

# New Dolphins' owner says Parcells will stay

**MIAMI** (AP)—New Miami Dolphins majority owner Stephen Ross won't mess with success: He says Bill Parcells will remain in charge of the football operation.

Ross, a New York real estate billionaire, completed his purchase of 95 percent of the franchise for $1 billion Tuesday, with Wayne Huizenga retaining a 5 percent interest.

Ross then addressed speculation he and Parcells might not be hitting it off. The sale triggered a clause in Parcells' contract allowing him to leave and still receive the $9-12 million remaining on the four-year contract he signed a year ago.

"Parcells is in charge," Ross said in a conference call. "He's staying, and I think we're very fortunate to have someone like Bill Parcells, who I think people have come to recognize as probably the best football mind in America."

Thanks to Parcells, Ross takes over with the franchise's fortunes on the upswing. When the first phase of his purchase was completed last February, the Dolphins were coming off a 1-15 season, worst in team history. Under the new Parcells regime, they improved to 11-6 this season and made the playoffs for the first time since 2001.

Parcells broke his silence Tuesday on the subject of his status. Scouting players practicing for the Senior Bowl in Mobile, Ala., he spoke briefly with several reporters and was asked if he planned to remain as the Dolphins' vice president of football operations.

"What does it look like I'm doing?" he said. "What do your eyes tell you?"

When asked why he wouldn't commit outright to staying, Parcells said experience taught him never to rule anything out. He said if something happened to change his mind, he'd "hate to be called a liar."

But Parcells said he likes Ross and is not seeking a new contract.

"It's not about money," Parcells said. "I've got more than I can spend."

Ross said he's 100 percent certain Parcells will stay for another season.

"I feel very, very comfortable with him, and I think he feels comfortable with me," Ross said. "I think we've developed a good rapport. ... Bill Parcells thinks like a businessman: You don't solve all your problems with money; you solve them with brains."

General manager Jeff Ireland said the sale won't affect the way he, Parcells and coach Tony Sparano go about things.

"It doesn't really change what I do, it doesn't change what Tony does, it doesn't change what Bill does," Ireland said in Mobile. "We've got to win games."

In February 2008, Ross bought 50 percent of the franchise, Dolphin Stadium and surrounding land from Huizenga for $550 million, with an agreement to later become managing general partner.

Ross closed on the purchase of an additional 45 percent Tuesday. That part of the agreement received pre-approval from the NFL in October.

Huizenga, 71, became sole owner of the Dolphins in 1994. A year ago he said it was time for someone else to assume control.

Ross plans to meet Friday with Parcells, Ireland and Sparano, and said he foresees no changes on the football side. He said he found the atmosphere at the Dolphins' recent playoff game electrifying and wants to build on this season's success.

"That is the most important thing, and the thing that drives me—creating and being part of a winning organization," Ross said. "There is nothing more important than that."

Ross said Bryan Wiedmeier will remain as team president, and negotiations regarding a position on the business side are ongoing with Arlen Kantarian, former U.S. Tennis Association CEO. Ross said he's talking to potential minority partners, but none has agreed to invest yet.

Huizenga bought 15 percent of the Dolphins and 50 percent of the stadium from team founder Joe Robbie's family in 1990. Total cost of those purchases was $168 million.

The Dolphins never reached the Super Bowl under Huizenga's ownership.

"The sale represents a bittersweet moment for me, but the timing is right to complete it," he said in a statement. "I know under Steve's leadership the Dolphins are in outstanding hands. We are still a 5 percent partner in the franchise and the stadium. The Huizenga family and organization will do everything we can to support Steve and the team for the benefit of all of South Florida."

Ross, 68, made his billions as a lawyer and developer and is chairman of Related Companies, an international real estate development company. He has homes in New York and Palm Beach, and he ranked 78th in 2008 on Forbes' list of richest Americans with a net worth of $4.5 billion.

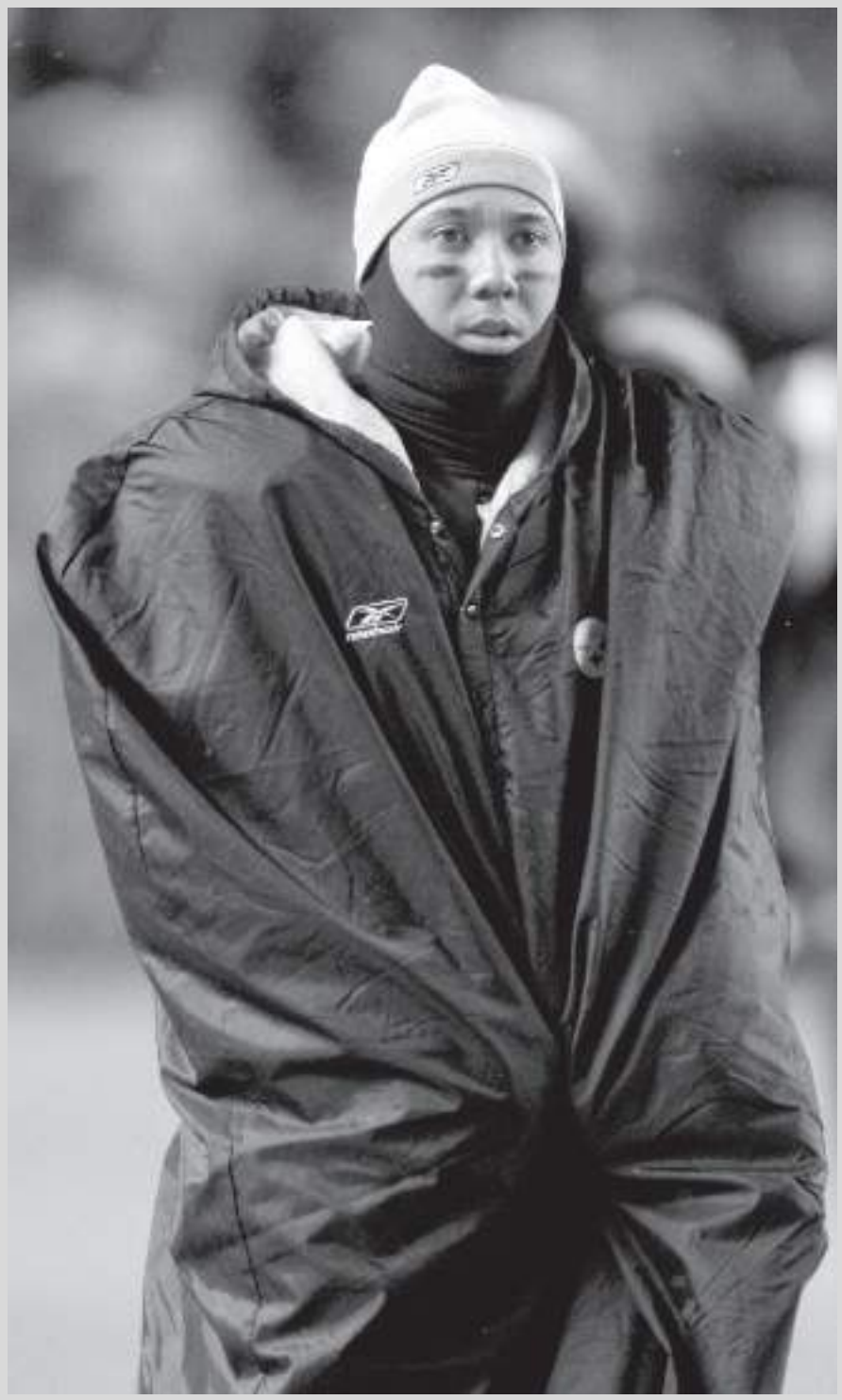
Ross attended Miami Beach High School and the University of Florida, then earned degrees from Michigan and Wayne State law school. He began his career in Detroit as a tax attorney, and the Michigan business school bears his name.

Once a minority partner with the New York Islanders, Ross was part of a group in 1990 that tried to bring baseball to Miami before Huizenga became founding owner of the Florida Marlins. He also made an unsuccessful bid for the New York Jets in 1999.

"When I read the paper, the first section I go to is the sports section," Ross said. "Since I wasn't going to make it as a player, it was a dream to become an owner."

Last year Forbes Magazine valued the Dolphins at $1 billion, with a revenue stream of about $232 million.

## *Steelers not counting Ward out despite injury*



AP

Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Hines Ward walks along the sidelines during the fourth quarter of the NFL AFC championship football game against the Baltimore Ravens in Pittsburgh, Sunday, Jan. 18, 2009.

**PITTSBURGH** (AP)—Hines Ward needs extensive work to rehabilitate his sprained right knee for the Super Bowl, but Pittsburgh Steelers coach Mike Tomlin still expects the wide receiver to play.

"We're definitely not going to count him out," Tomlin said Tuesday. "We're going to save a seat on the bus for 86."

Ward, the Steelers' career receiving leader, sprained a medial collateral ligament while making a catch in the first quarter of the AFC championship game against Baltimore on Sunday night. If the Steelers played this week, he may not have been ready.

Tuesday was the players' scheduled day off, yet Tomlin observed Ward doing extensive rehabilitation work in the team's practice complex. The Steelers leave Monday for Tampa and the Feb. 1 game against Arizona, but only after they go through a regular week of practice.

The schedule will be the same as for any other week, Tomlin said, and the Steelers will draw up a game plan as if they were playing this Sunday. A game plan that is likely to include Ward.

"We're going to do everything in our power so he gets the medical attention he needs," Tomlin said. "In his mind, he's playing, so chances are he is. It's not going to be comfortable between now and game day in terms of making that happen. But it's not about comfort, particularly with Hines."

Ward played in every Steelers game from 2001-04, and he has missed only six games the last four seasons—none this season. He led the team with 81 catches for 1,043 yards, his fifth career 1,000-yard season and his first since 2004.

"I don't plan on missing this game, trust me. So don't worry about my knee, I'll be fine," Ward said following the 24-13 victory over Baltimore.

Ward didn't play much against the Ravens because of the injury, but made catches of 45 yards and 11 yards that set up Jeff Reed field goals. He returned briefly in the second quarter and caught one pass, but did not play the rest of the game

"I just fell on it wrong," said Ward, the MVP of the 2006 Super Bowl. "I just kind of twisted it and it felt weird. ... But I didn't want to go out there and hurt our team if I wasn't 100 percent. I could have played 75 or 80 percent but a championship game, let's put in a bunch of guys who are 100 percent, go out there and run full speed."

# Phillies slugger Howard seeks $18M in arbitration

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Ryan Howard proposed a salary as prodigious as one of his home runs. The Philadelphia Phillies first baseman asked for $18 million in arbitration Tuesday, the third-highest figure submitted since the process began in 1974.

Philadelphia offered $14 million to the 2006 NL MVP, who is not eligible for free agency until after the 2011 season. Howard had a major league-leading 48 homers and 146 RBIs last year, helping the Phillies win their first World Series title since 1980. Before the season, he was awarded $10 million in arbitration rather than Philadelphia's $7 million offer.

Houston pitcher Roger Clemens set the record for highest request in arbitration at $22 million in 2005. Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter is second at $18.5 million in 2001.

Milwaukee first baseman Prince Fielder had the second-highest request this year at $8 million and was offered $6 million by the Brewers, who renewed his contract last year for $670,000. He had 34 homers and 102 RBIs as Milwaukee reached the playoffs for the first time since 1982, down from 50 homers and 119 RBIs in 2007.

Colorado third baseman Garrett Atkins was third at $7.95 million. The Rockies offered a raise from $4.44 million to $6.65 million after he had 21 homers and 99 RBIs.

Forty-two players reached one-year agreements Tuesday just before the exchange. Among them were Seattle left-hander Erik Bedard ($7.75 million), Pittsburgh first baseman Adam LaRoche ($7.05 million), New York Yankees outfielder Xavier Nady ($6.55 million) and Boston closer Jonathan Papelbon ($6.25 million).

While 111 players filed for arbitration last Thursday, just 46 exchanged figures with their teams. That group included Baltimore right fielder Nick Markakis, who has a tentative agreement on a $66 million, six-year deal.

Yankees center fielder Melky Cabrera settled just after the swap, agreeing to a $1.4 million, one-year deal.

Howard's $4 million gap was the largest among players who exchanged figures with their teams. Tampa Bay and third baseman Willy Aybar had the smallest margin at $150,000, with the player asking for $1.05 million and the club offering $900,000.

For cases that don't settle, hearings will be scheduled for the first 21 days of February. Just eight of 110 players who filed last year went to hearings, and clubs won six. The average increase for those who filed last year was 120 percent.

# DCCA extends winning run to 10

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Defending champion Department of Community and Cultural Affairs is still unscathed in the men's division of the 2008 Inter Government/Business Softball League claiming its 10th win in as many games Friday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

An 18-3 demolition of the Commonwealth Health Center put DCCA halfway from sweeping the regular season. There are 20 teams vying for the men's championship this year and the defending champion is the lone unbeaten squad in the big field.

Centerfielder Julian Camacho and catcher Jun Saralu had one homer apiece in DCCA's easy win with the latter going 3-for-3 at the plate and scoring three runs and three RBIs. Saralu was only 2-for-4 at-bat, but he made four RBIs.

First baseman Jonathan Tenorio was perfect at-bat hitting 3-for-3, while second baseman Joey Dela Cruz went 3-for-4, had two doubles, and two RBIs.

DCCA was 21-for-30 at the plate for an impressive batting average of .700.

CHC, which absorbed its seventh loss in 10 games, fared poorly at-bat going only 9-for-28 for an average of .321. It never scored more than one run in an inning.

Shortstop Bradley Nginaki put CHC in the scoreboard at the top of the first on a Henry Reyes double.

But DCCA answered with a seven-round bottom of the first, highlighted by Saralu's two-run homer to take the lead.

The defending champions never looked back from thereon, adding five runs in the second, three in the third, and three more in the fourth, courtesy of Camacho's round-tripper.

CHC had to bleed for runs in the succeeding innings, making only one in the second on a Tom Diaz single, which drove Rick Kaipat home. It's third and last run came in the fourth inning on Al Ngiraibuich's sacrifice fly.

The game concluded after only four and a half innings when CHC's first two runners were thrown out on a 1-3 put-out play and a fly out. CHC's third batter Vince Rabauliman advanced on a pitcher's error, but was stranded on first when Kaipat flied out to center for the third out.

The two other games Friday night were cancelled due to rain.

DCCA was supposed to collide with CHC in the women's division game, while the other men's match was to feature the Beach Boys against Law & Order.

# SVES Canary Walk-a-thon this Saturday

The Parent, Teacher, Students Association of San Vicente Elementary School will be hosting the 3rd Annual Canary Walk-a-thon this Saturday, Jan. 24, at the SVES baseball field from 7am until noon.

The Canary Walk-a-thon committee has various activities planned for the families of San Vicente Elementary School and the community. This event is tailored to provide the school and the community as well, some interactive activities that will benefit not only the child and the individual but also the family as a whole. The school hope to see parents and students sharing in the experience of walking together.

Proceeds from the event will go toward the expansion of the walkways from the main highway and the covering of stairway going to the school cafeteria.

Members of the PTSA have been soliciting support for the event and welcome all donations both monetary and in-kind. For more information, you may call the school at 237-3791/3 or 237-3761. ***(PR)***

## TWO

*From Page 28*

nese friend lives nearby the lake (Kawaguchi) and the race is famous for its beautiful course," Oshima-Berger said.

Lake Kawaguchi is a lake near Mt Fuji and is located in Fujikawaguchiko, Yamanashi. It is the most popular of the Fuji Five Lakes in terms of tourists, and is part of the Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park.

Oshima Berger said she has yet to decide if she will be joining the race in November, but said if she makes it, it will be her first time to join a marathon in Japan.

"It will be held in November so it is too far to think about it," said the Niigita native who made Saipan her new home in 1994 and just started running long courses three years ago.

While Oshima-Berger has yet to make up her mind about the Japan race, Carey had already begged off from the invitation.

"I never heard about the race, but I know there are many great runners there and I would like to run with them," said Carey, who ruled last weekend's half marathon race with her time of 1:34:54.

"But I can't go there. The race is in November and the weather will be different," Carey added.

Weather in Lake Kawaguchi is pretty cold with the temperature usually in single digit. In last year's races, the temperature was down to 2 degrees.

Carey also said she is used to and trained for triathlon, but not for sole running events.

"I appreciate the invitation. It's an honor to be part of the race, but I want to concentrate on triathlon," she said.

The half marathon queen said she used last weekend's race to prepare for the 2009 XTERRA Championships. She also aims to make it to the XTERRA World Championships again this year in Maui.

The XTERRA World is scheduled in October, only a month before the Lake Kawaguchi Nikkan Sports Marathon.

## SPORTS

*From Page 28*

a road game, voted to change their flight schedule and arrive in time for the players to watch the ceremony from their hotel, even though coach Doc Rivers offered to tape it for them.

"They said, 'No, we want to see it live. We think it's that important,'" Rivers said. "One of them said, 'Twenty or 30 years from now, I want to say I saw him speak live when he came in.' I guess it will be like JFK in a lot of ways. I'm glad our guys have the awareness of real life."

Guard Ray Allen upped them all, attending the inauguration in person with Celtics owner Steve Pagliuca before rejoining the team in Florida.

Pagliuca said he was proud to represent a Celtics team that was the first in the NBA to draft a black player and to hire a black coach.

"It was people coming together; kind of a peaceful feeling came over the crowd," Pagliuca told The Associated Press. "The crowd had a hope and a joy. For that many people to be that peaceful was very moving."

In Fairfax, Va., George Mason men's basketball coach Jim Larranaga used "Yes, we can!" as his thought for the day when practice began at 11:30 a.m. He pulled his players off the court 27 minutes later and took them to the locker room to watch the swearing-in and Obama's speech. The players broke out in applause several times, then returned to finish practice.

Even ESPN deviated from its sports programming to broadcast the swearing-in, and ESPN Classic followed with a 10-hour "Breaking Barriers" marathon featuring African-American athletes such as Arthur Ashe, Jack Johnson and Eddie Robinson.

Sports metaphors were heavily in play. Louisville basketball Rick Pitino, who campaigned for Rudy Guiliani during the primaries, said he was thrilled by Obama's speech but noted the challenges the new president is facing.

"I think, unfortunately, he's taking over a bad program with bad players right now," Pitino said.

Kansas City Chiefs coach Herm Edwards watched the inauguration under the same gloomy cloud millions of Americans share—worried that he's about to lose his job. His team went 6-26 over the last two seasons.

"I think the country has been waiting for something like this," Edwards said. "We should all embrace it, regardless of our background—religious, economic, heritage, it doesn't matter."

Baseball players found it easier to attend the inauguration because their sport is out of season. Free agent reliever LaTroy Hawkins, who had a seat about 100 yards from the Capitol, said he thought of his grandmother, who died in 2006, as he watched Obama take the oath. He said the sports world paid more attention than usual to Obama's rise because of the high proportion of African-Americans on many teams.

"It has to do with race," Hawkins said. "A lot of African-American people feel now they can relate to someone in the White House, and that somebody in the White House can relate to them. He can understand their struggles. He can understand what it means to be black in the United States."

New York Mets general manager Omar Minaya also had a good view, not far from singer Alicia Keys.

"I hope all kids will look at today and realize how great a country we have," said Minaya, who was appointed this month to the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports by outgoing President George W. Bush.

On the other side of the world, tennis star Serena Williams followed preinaugural events on television during the Australian Open, although she felt it probably was wiser to tape the inauguration rather than watch it live at 4 a.m. local time.

"I try to stay politically neutral, don't get involved in worldly matters," said Williams, who doesn't vote because she is a Jehovah's Witness. "For me, because I am black, seeing that happen, I would be blind if I didn't take interest in it."

## SWIMMERS

*From Page 28*

cember after her impressive exploits in the 2008 Guam International Swim Meet claiming first place finishes in seven events.

Triathlon's nominees are Mieko Carey, Maimi Shimizu, and Maimi Oshima-Berger.

Carey earned the March plum after placing second in the 2008 XTERRA Saipan Championships, third in Tagaman Triathlon and first in XTERRA Guam.

Four months later, it was Shimizu's turn to take the monthly award after finishing seventh in the Kaike Japan Ironman Triathlon.

A stint in off-island tournament also helped Oshima-Berger join her fellow triathletes on the list of monthly awardees. Oshima-Berger, the Female Athlete of the Month for October, participated in the Niigata Half Marathon and finished third in the women's division.

Back on Saipan, she competed in the Banzai Half Marathon and was the first female finisher and second overall.

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's Becca Newman and Northern Marianas Athletics' Yvonne Bennett were the two other nominees for the coveted award, which will be handed out next month during the NMASA Annual Sports Banquet.

Among the nine nominees, only Yvonne Bennett of athletics is the two-time monthly winner earning the citation in May and June.

Her first monthly award came after she broke CNMI records in the 100m, 200m, and 400m races. She also anchored Kagman High School to a first-place finish in the 4x100m relay run in the All Schools Meet.

In June, Bennett competed in tougher tournaments joining the Oceania Grand Prix and the Oceania Championships. She made it to the finals of the 100m in the Oceania Championships and went on to set new marks in the 100m, 200m, and 400m races.

Newman took the Female Athlete of the Month honors for April after gaining the MVP in the Guam vs. CNMI game in Guam.

Newman's superb goal-saving skills allowed the CNMI to force the FIFA 75th-ranked Guam to a 0-0 draw.

## REPLACEMENTS

*From Page 28*

Seung Min Lee of Trench Tech. Taking over Ogo's place is Dino Mettao, who lost his first fight last year.

With Mettao moving down to the 155-lb. bout, the 160-lb. E.J. Palacios will now be paired with Tom "Lite's Out" Kim.

Kim is undefeated in two fights, while Mettao will be debuting in "Conviction."

This weekend's Rope VI will feature 13 supporting bouts, one semi main event, and an heavy weight fight.

Hosea Ware of Spike 22 Ground-Fu will be going up against Syl "The Deal" Teregeyo of Marianas Elite in the 185-lb. bout semi main event.

Ware, a replacement for Frank "The Shotgun" Manglona, has a 4-1 record, which is better than Teregeyo's 4-3 mark.

The main event will have Marianas Elite's Maitai "The Charger" Charley battling Ryan 'The Dentist" Urquizu in the 150-lb. bout.

Charkey is hoping to get his fourth win in eight fights, while Urquizu is aiming to improve his 12-4 slate.

Tickets for the event are now being sold at Boarderline Skate Shop, 670 Rock Steady, Han Nam Market in Koblerville, Kagman Mobil, and Pacific Trading Co. at $20 each.

For more information, contact Alvarez at 483-4MMA, 483-4899, and 235-3800.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

**Atlantic Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Boston | 34 | 9 | .791 | – |
| Philadelphia | 20 | 21 | .488 | 13 |
| New Jersey | 19 | 22 | .463 | 14 |
| New York | 16 | 24 | .400 | 16 1/2 |
| Toronto | 16 | 27 | .372 | 18 |

**Southeast Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Orlando | 33 | 8 | .805 | – |
| Atlanta | 25 | 16 | .610 | 8 |
| Miami | 22 | 18 | .550 | 10 1/2 |
| Charlotte | 16 | 25 | .390 | 17 |
| Washington | 8 | 32 | .200 | 24 1/2 |

**Central Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cleveland | 31 | 8 | .795 | – |
| Detroit | 23 | 17 | .575 | 8 1/2 |
| Milwaukee | 20 | 24 | .455 | 13 1/2 |
| Chicago | 18 | 25 | .419 | 15 |
| Indiana | 15 | 27 | .357 | 17 1/2 |

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

**Southwest Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| San Antonio | 28 | 13 | .683 | – |
| New Orleans | 25 | 13 | .658 | 1 1/2 |
| Houston | 26 | 16 | .619 | 2 1/2 |
| Dallas | 24 | 17 | .585 | 4 |
| Memphis | 11 | 29 | .275 | 16 1/2 |

**Northwest Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Denver | 28 | 15 | .651 | – |
| Portland | 25 | 16 | .610 | 2 |
| Utah | 25 | 17 | .595 | 2 1/2 |
| Minnesota | 13 | 27 | .325 | 13 1/2 |
| Oklahoma City | 8 | 34 | .190 | 19 1/2 |

**Pacific Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| L.A. Lakers | 32 | 8 | .800 | – |
| Phoenix | 23 | 16 | .590 | 8 1/2 |
| Golden State | 13 | 29 | .310 | 20 |
| Sacramento | 10 | 32 | .238 | 23 |
| L.A. Clippers | 9 | 31 | .225 | 23 |

**Yesterday's Games**

Atlanta 105, Chicago 102
San Antonio 99, Indiana 81
Denver 118, Sacramento 99
Utah 112, Minnesota 107

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### LOCAL SCORES

**BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS**

**Men's Division**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| DCCA | 10 | 0 |
| Freedom Air | 8 | 1 |
| CPA | 8 | 1 |
| No Zone | 8 | 2 |
| Joeten Motors | 7 | 3 |
| Beach Boys | 6 | 2 |
| Legislature | 6 | 4 |
| Docomo | 6 | 4 |
| DLNR | 5 | 5 |
| DEQ/CRM | 5 | 5 |
| POI | 4 | 4 |
| P & S | 4 | 4 |
| Law & Order | 3 | 6 |
| PSS | 3 | 6 |
| CUC | 3 | 7 |
| CHC | 2 | 7 |
| Customs | 2 | 7 |
| PIC | 2 | 7 |
| Mayors | 1 | 9 |
| Hopwood | 0 | 9 |

**Women's Division**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| NMC | 7 | 1 |
| DCCA | 3 | 3 |
| Finance | 3 | 4 |
| CUC | 3 | 4 |
| CHC | 1 | 5 |

# SEDA Summer Fall 2008 Banquet

Photos By
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The MVPs of various leagues and winners in the high-in and high-out categories pose for a group photo.

A League champions Utopia 4 Corners show their trophies during the awards banquet for the SEDA Summer Fall 2008 Sunday at Charley's Cabaret at the Pacific Islands Club.

Marpac's Jojo Camacho speaks to the crowd and reiterates the company continued support to SEDA tournaments.

Sportsmanship Award recipients the Coral Reef Mermaids.

Thursday B League third placers the Primo's Warriors.

C League top winner Naked Fish Unagas.

First placers Naked Fish Naked Shooters.

The VFW Major Leaks of A League with their third place trophies.

Thursday B top finisher Len's Lights Out.

Tuesday B League runner-up Jonny's Fujin

Tuesday B champions Krystal 80 Proofers.

**DCCA extends winning run to 10**

Defending champion Department of Community and Cultural Affairs is still unscathed in the men's division of the 2008 Inter Government/Business Softball League claiming its 10th win in as many games Friday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

26

**Federer joins Serbian trio in 3rd round**

Roger Federer's quest for a record 14th major got more compelling Wednesday when he set up a third-round match with Marat Safin at the Australian Open.

24

# Swimmers and triathletes lead Female nominees

Bennett

Carey

Johnson

Kimball

Newman

Oshima-Berger

Shimizu

Welch

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Swimming and triathlon have the most nominees for the 2008 Female Athlete of the Year Award, while football and athletics have one apiece.

The first nominee for swimming is Sarah Johnson, who claimed the Female Athlete of the Month plum in February for winning the 5,000m race in the 3rd Annual Meek and Mighty Swim and getting the second highest points in the 3rd Annual Saipan Swim Club Heptathlon Virtual Meet.

Johnson also shone in an off-island tournament winning a gold medal and two silver on top of recording six lifetime best times in the Far North Queensland Championships in Australia.

Her fellow swimmers—Marystar Welch and Grace Kimbal—took the last two Female Athlete of the Month awards.

Welch got NMASA members' votes for the Female Athlete of the Month for November when she won three events in the SSC All Schools Meet.

Kimball was selected Female Athlete of the Month for De-

See SWIMMERS on Page 26

# Two invited to marathon in Japan

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Back-to-back Saipan Marathon winner Mamiko Oshima-Berger and half marathon top finisher Mieko Carey received invitations to join the 34th Lake Kawaguchi Nikkan Sports Marathon in Japan after their triumphs in Saturday's 2009 Winter Festival of Runs.

Oshima-Berger topped the 42.195-km marathon in record-breaking fashion with her time of 22 minutes, 45 seconds, which was more than 28 seconds faster than her time (3:51:58) last year when she won her first marathon title.




For her feat, a representative from Nikkan Sports and Oakley presented Oshima-Berger with an envelope containing the invitation for the Lake Kawaguchi race.

"It is an interesting race. I knew about it because one of my Japa-

See TWO on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mieko Carey, left, and Mamiko Oshima-Berger enjoy a light moment after completing their respective races in the 2009 Winter Festival of Runs Sunday at Micro Beach at the American Memorial Park.

# Sports world pauses as Obama takes office

By JOSEPH WHITE
AP SPORTS WRITER

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Muhammad Ali and Magic Johnson had prime seats at the Capitol. LeBron James watched from a hotel room in Los Angeles with his two sons. Across the country, coaches rescheduled practices, and even the Super Bowl had to take a back seat Tuesday to the inauguration of Barack Obama.

"This day means a lot to inner-city kids, to African-American kids, to everyone," said Cleveland Cavaliers star James, who contributed $20,000 to Obama's campaign but couldn't attend the swearing-in because his team is on a West Coast road trip.

"This day will last forever. It will be in books. It will be in schools. It will be in classes. It will be on test questions. It means a lot not only on this day, but for the rest of the days to come and the years to come."

It takes a lot bring the sports world to a standstill, but there was no ignoring the magnitude of the moment. Pittsburgh Steelers coach Mike Tomlin pushed back his first pre-Super Bowl news conference one hour so it wouldn't conflict with the inauguration.

"What we're doing here today pales with what's going on in our nation's capital," Tomlin said.

The Boston Celtics, on the way to Miami for

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AP
Boxing legend Muhammad Ali, gets help from a family member in the risers near the main platform on the West from of the U.S. Capitol as he arrives for the swearing-in of President-elect Barack Obama in Washington, Tuesday Jan. 20, 2009.

# Replacements San Nicolas, Tuwun to fight in ROP VI

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TRENCH TECH

Rick "Too Slick" San Nicolas and Team Yap's Stanley Tuwun led the new list of fighters who will see action in this weekend's Rites of Passage VI: Conviction at the World Resort.

San Nicolas and Tuwin made it to the fight card of the initial offering of Trench Tech, replacing the bout that was to feature Pwang's Barry Mality and XTREME's Marvin Somol.

"Barry Mality and Marvin Somol's fight was cancelled. This originally was supposed to be a grudge match but the two made up and decided not to fight," said Cuki Alvarez, president of ROP VI organizer Trench Tech.

The cancellation of the Mality-Somol duel will give San Nicolas and Tuwun a chance to gain their first win.

The 215-lb. San Nicolas had been into nine bouts and lost all, while the 210-lb. Tuwun is winless in two fights.

Three other pairings were changed for the ROP VI, which will take place this Saturday.

Zalaka's Jacob Ilo, who was originally set to challenge Vince Masga of Trench Tech in the 135-lb. bout, will now collide with another Trench Tech fighter in Jerome Fujihara. Masga withdrew from the fight due to an injury.

Ilo will be debuting in ROP VI, while Fujihara is hoping to get his second win in as many bouts.

An arm injury forced Haga T fighter John Ogo to call off his 155-lb. bout with the debuting

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